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Lemhi Resource Management Plan

Proposed Amendment,

Environmental Assessment,

and

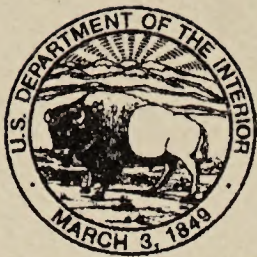
Finding of No Significant Impact

(EA Number: EA-ID-01-085-0002)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Salmon Field Office

March 12, 2001

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater District

Salmon Field Office

50 Highway 93 South

Salmon, Idaho 83467

<http://www.id.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:

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Dear Reader:

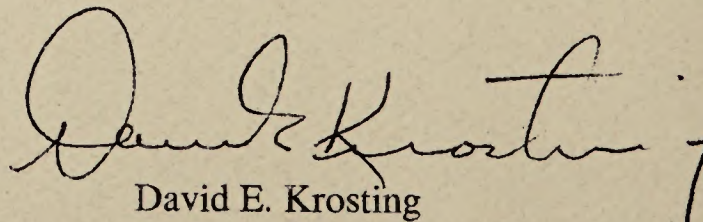
The Salmon Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed an environmental assessment (EA) which analyzes four alternative proposals to amend the Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1987. Alternative C has been selected as the proposed amendment. Alternative C was developed to address public and agency comments on a Public and Tribal Review Copy Amendment/EA document distributed in November 2000. The proposed amendment is similar to Alternative A described in the "Review Copy EA," but with slightly less restrictive off-highway vehicle use and visual resource management designations.

A public notice of availability of this proposed amendment/EA begins a 30-day protest period. Letters of protest to the BLM Director must be filed within 30 days of the published notice of availability and meet the content requirements established in 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(2). (Protest procedures are described on the pages following this letter.) Protests, including the names and street addresses of protestors, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual protestors may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written protest. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Following resolution of any protests and/or consistency issues raised by the Governor, the BLM will publish and distribute the RMP Amendment and signed Decision Record. Upon signature of the Decision Record, the RMP amendment will become final.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the planning process for this Resource Management Plan Amendment. I look forward to your continued involvement as we implement the management guidance contained in the amendment.

Sincerely,


David E. Krosting
Field Manager

Enclosure

[errata sheet]

Revised Analysis of OHV Impacts to the Eighteenmile WSA August 3, 2001

The following paragraphs *replace* the impacts analysis stated on page 82 of the *Lemhi Resource Management Plan Proposed Amendment, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact* (BLM, March 12, 2001). Although portions of the analysis from the EA still apply, the entire analysis has been restated to provide a clear comparison among the alternatives. The cumulative impacts to the WSA that were discussed on page 104 of the EA are still valid.

Existing Management

Implementing existing management for the recommended suitable portion of the WSA ("closed" to OHV use) would preserve the wilderness values of that portion of the WSA. Existing management for the recommended nonsuitable portion of the WSA ("open" to OHV use) is not in conformance with interim management guidance for lands under wilderness review. Allowing cross-country vehicle use throughout the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, as is permitted under an "open" designation, would impair wilderness values by affecting the naturalness of the area and creating new surface disturbance.

Alternative A

Closing the entire WSA to motorized vehicle use would maintain and enhance the wilderness values of the area by virtually eliminating motorized vehicle use impacts within the WSA (some occasional authorized use may still occur). Vehicle ways existing at the time of wilderness inventory and new, unauthorized ways would gradually revegetate, improving the naturalness of the landscape. Opportunities for solitude would also improve. This OHV designation would not impair the suitability of the WSA for preservation as wilderness.

Alternatives B and C

Amending the OHV designation for the nonsuitable portion of the WSA (changing it from "open" to "limited") is expected to maintain wilderness values in that portion of the WSA. The topography along the only designated route (the Powderhorn Gulch Road) makes unauthorized vehicle use off of this route highly unlikely.

Amending the designation for the suitable portion of the WSA (changing it from "closed" to "limited") would allow access on some of the roads and vehicle ways existing at the time of wilderness inventory. Limiting OHV use to designated routes within the suitable portion of the WSA should technically help prevent the proliferation of unauthorized vehicle ways and associated loss of wilderness character. However, unauthorized use off of existing boundary roads and vehicle ways has been documented in the WSA since travel was limited to those routes through a *Federal Register* notice published in 1989. This proliferation of unauthorized routes is expected to continue (based on the tenfold increase in OHV use in the WSA during the past twenty years) as long as some vehicle access is allowed in the suitable portion of the WSA. This unauthorized use would cause new surface disturbance which does not meet the non-impairment standard for wilderness suitability: "Cross-country vehicle use off boundary roads and existing ways is surface disturbing because the tracks created by the vehicle leave depressions or ruts, compact the soils, and trample or compress vegetation."¹ This unauthorized use would also gradually impair wilderness values by affecting the naturalness of the landscape.

¹USDI - BLM. 1995. *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review*, H-8550-1, p. 9.

Revised Analysis of OHV Impacts to the Lightenbelt WSA
Version 1.0 (2005)



The following paragraphs describe the methodology used to estimate the impacts of OHV use on the Lightenbelt WSA. The methodology was developed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The methodology was developed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The methodology was developed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

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Existing Management

The following paragraphs describe the methodology used to estimate the impacts of OHV use on the Lightenbelt WSA. The methodology was developed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The methodology was developed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The methodology was developed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

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Protest Procedures

The resource management planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM Director if you believe the approval of a proposed RMP or plan amendment would be in error. (See 43 CFR 1610.5-2.) Careful adherence to these guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to the Lemhi Resource Management Plan Proposed Amendment may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process.

The period for filing a plan protest begins when a Notice of Availability of the Proposed Amendment and Environmental Assessment is published in the *Recorder-Herald* in Salmon, Idaho. The protest period is 30 calendar days; there is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Protests shall be filed with:

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator
WO-210/LS-1075
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

The overnight mail address is:

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator (WO-210)
1620 L Street, N.W., Room 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036
phone: (202) 452-5110

To expedite consideration, *in addition to the original* sent by mail or overnight mail, *a copy* of the protest may be sent by

FAX to (202) 452-5112; or
e-mail to bhudgens@wo.blm.gov

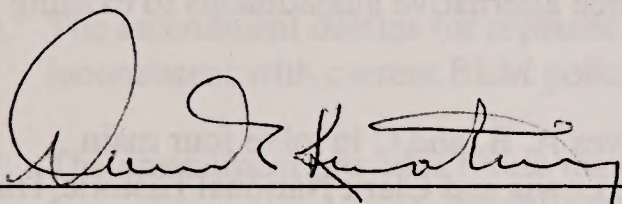
Protests filed late, or filed with the State Director or District or Field Manager, shall be rejected by WO-210.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Lemhi RMP Proposed Amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment (EA) and have determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Salmon Field Manager

3/12/01

Date

Suggested Decision Record and Rationale for the Decision

Suggested Decision:

The BLM's decision is to implement the proposed amendment (Alternative C) described in the attached EA-ID-01-085-0002 as an Amendment to the Lemhi Resource Management Plan (BLM 1987). The Amendment is consistent with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM Handbook H-8550-1), the 1987 Rangeland Program Summary for the Lemhi Resource Area, the Salmon River Recreation Area Management Plan, Amendment #7 to the Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use, and consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

Suggested Rationale for the Decision:

Existing management, as described in the Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1987) and as amended in December 1987, fails to address some of the current needs of the Salmon Field Office area. In some cases the needs have changed. In other cases new information has become available that would support changes in management in all or a portion of the planning area. To address these changing needs, the Salmon Field Office, BLM, described and analyzed three alternative amendments to existing management (Alternatives A, B, and C).

The most substantial proposals for change described in Alternatives A, B, and C involve four main issues: fire management, location of and management within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and visual resource management. Alternatives A, B, and C proposed identical changes to existing fire management. Alternatives A and C differ from Alternative B only slightly in the amended designation of the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA; however, proposed management of the SRMA, including visual resource management, is the same under all three alternatives. Alternative B continues an "open" OHV use designation for 42.5% of the planning area, with most of the remainder subject to OHV use limitations. Alternatives A and C eliminate areas with an "open" OHV use designation, but provide for OHV use with limitations on over 90% of the planning area. Visual resource management guidelines outside the boundaries of the SRMA are somewhat more restrictive in Alternative A than in Alternatives B and C.

Alternative C has been selected as the proposed amendment because it will improve and sustain resource conditions and protect non-renewable resources (such as cultural resources), while simultaneously considering local economic and social needs and demands for existing or potential resources and values. The BLM's specific rationale for amending existing management as described in the proposed amendment (Alternative C) is as follows:

1. The amendment provides greater flexibility in the use of prescribed fire and other vegetation treatment methods in order to improve resource values or conditions; reduce fuel hazards and the risk of catastrophic fire impacts to local communities and public lands resources; and otherwise support resource management objectives. The amendment also emphasizes the BLM's intention to consider air quality concerns in fire management activities and to conform to relevant law, regulation, and policy related to air quality management.

2. The amendment allows consideration of future disposal, through exchange, of about 2,200 acres of public lands, in order to acquire lands with values such as portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail; fisheries, riparian, or wildlife habitat; and potential recreation sites.
3. The amendment provides general guidance for future management of acquired lands, an aspect of management that was not addressed in the 1987 Lemhi RMP. It also replaces specific guidance on land acquisition with more general guidance, thus giving the BLM greater flexibility to determine where, and for what purposes, land acquisitions might be pursued.
4. The amendment improves management opportunities for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by aligning the location of the Special Recreation Management Area's designation to the area of the currently known or probable Trail location. Proposed management of the Trail (e.g., minerals restrictions, visual resource and off-highway vehicle designations) will protect the Trail area's cultural and historic resources for the future, while still allowing recreational and other uses of the Trail area.
5. The amendment changes visual resource management designations to reflect changes in locations of visual importance since the 1987 RMP was developed. More stringent designations are applied to scenic resources along major travel routes and within visually sensitive areas (such as the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA) than are applied throughout the remainder of the Field Office area.
6. The amendment deletes (or replaces) aspects of the 1987 RMP that are conflicting, ambiguous, or inconsistent with current BLM policy or direction.
7. The amendment provides future management direction for about 40,000 acres of public lands formerly managed under the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan, a document that is no longer in use.
8. The amendment changes off-highway vehicle use designations in order to manage motorized vehicle use more effectively in response to recent and anticipated increases in OHV use. These amended designations maintain motorized access throughout most of the Field Office area, while simultaneously minimizing resource impacts.

Based on my review of EA-ID-01-085-0002 and the rationale stated above, I authorize implementation of the Lemhi Resource Management Plan Amendment attached to this Decision Record (and as described in the EA as Alternative C).

Idaho State Director

Date

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**Lemhi Resource Management Plan
Proposed Amendment/Environmental Assessment (EA)**

EA Number: EA-ID-01-085-0002
Date of Preparation: March 12, 2001

INTRODUCTION

Background: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salmon Field Office (formerly the Lemhi Resource Area), administers approximately 494,837 acres of public lands under the management direction of the *Lemhi Resource Management Plan* (RMP), approved in April 1987. An RMP amendment to address the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas (ACEC/RNAs) within the Salmon District - BLM was signed in December 1987. No additional plan amendments for the Salmon Field Office area have been completed or implemented to date. The proposed plan amendment contained in this EA addresses changing resource needs, resolves ambiguities in the Lemhi RMP, incorporates current information, and responds to changes in BLM policy and direction.

Scoping efforts for the proposed amendment included a Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* (February 25, 2000), a general mailing (February 22, 2000), news releases to local and regional newspapers, an "open house" style public meeting (March 27, 2000), and a meeting with (March 22, 2000) and briefing for (June 15, 2000) members and staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Informal briefings were provided for the Lemhi County Off-highway Vehicle Subcommittee and Lemhi County Commissioners. During scoping, the public and Tribes were asked to comment on the following preliminary planning issues and to suggest any other issues that should be considered.

Issue 1: Decisions concerning the management or use of naturally-ignited and management-ignited fire on the public lands have the potential to cause concern among users of the public lands.

Issue 2: With the upcoming bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark expedition, additional guidance is needed to manage resources, values, and uses on public lands along the Expedition's route and the areas surrounding the route. There is some question as to the exact location of the route the Expedition took through the Lemhi River Valley. However, an area sufficient to include the likely route needs to be identified to enable focused management of recreational, scenic, historical, cultural, and other important values associated with the Lewis and Clark Trail.

In response to these scoping efforts, the Salmon Field Office received several oral, written, and e-mail comments and suggestions. The majority of the comments submitted were more appropriate for consideration at the activity planning or project planning level, rather than an RMP amendment. All issues and concerns that pertain to an RMP-level planning effort were considered during development of the proposed amendment alternatives. Activity planning-level suggestions will be considered in the near future when fire management planning and cultural/recreational resource planning for the Lewis and Clark Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) commence.

Following scoping, the Salmon Field Office prepared and distributed the "Public and Tribal Review Copy Lemhi Resource Management Plan Amendment Environmental Assessment" (Review Copy EA) (BLM, November 13, 2000). The Review Copy EA described and analyzed three amendment alterna-

tives, including existing management; a transmittal letter enclosed with the EA mailing invited comments and input pertaining to the EA. The Salmon Field Office received numerous comments on the Review Copy EA. These comments were considered when completing the impacts analysis and developing the proposed amendment described in this EA.

Type of Action: Lemhi Resource Management Plan Amendment.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action: A Resource Management Plan amendment is needed to (a) redefine management of naturally-ignited and management-ignited fires occurring on public lands administered by the Salmon Field Office; (b) more accurately define the location of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and provide additional guidance for management of the resources, values, and uses on public lands along the Trail and its surrounding area; (c) apply RMP management to approximately 40,000 acres of public lands formerly managed according to the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan (MFP); (d) allow for the potential disposal of approximately 2,200 acres currently classified as retention areas; (e) redefine visual resource management direction for the RMP area; (f) redefine off-highway vehicle use management direction for the RMP area; and (g) provide guidance for management of acquired lands.

Location of the Proposed Action: The proposed amendment would apply to approximately 494,837 acres of public lands administered by the Salmon Field Office in Lemhi County, Idaho (see Map 1).

Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans: The proposed amendment is consistent with the 1987 Rangeland Program Summary for the Lemhi Resource Area, The Interim Management and Policy Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM 1995), the Salmon River Recreation Area Management Plan (September 30, 1986), Amendment #7 to the Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (July 7, 2000), the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use (National Park Service, 1982), and consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act. The Salmon Field Office - BLM has attempted to ensure consistency with the officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, and the policies and programs contained therein, of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes, in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.3-2. To the best of the BLM's knowledge, the proposed amendment is consistent with relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal plans, policies, and programs.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives Considered and Analyzed: Table 1 (see p. 5) displays the alternatives analyzed in this environmental assessment. Existing management describes the portions of the Lemhi RMP and RNA/ACECs amendment that would be amended. Alternatives A, B, and C emphasize multiple use, with varying levels of motorized travel and maintenance or restoration of natural values. Alternative C is selected as the Salmon Field Office's proposed amendment of the Lemhi RMP.

Alternatives Considered, but not Analyzed in Detail:

Various alternatives for fire management, off-highway vehicle use, public lands disposal through exchange, and Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation boundaries and management were considered during the planning process, as described below, but were not analyzed in detail.

Fire Management

- A fire management alternative that emphasized the use of prescribed fire for socio-economic benefit (e.g., commercial timber production, livestock forage production) and an alternative that emphasized the use of prescribed fire for natural resource benefit were considered. These alternatives were blended into the proposed fire management action, which allows prescribed fire to be used for a broad range of purposes.

Off-highway Vehicle Use

- An alternative was considered which only amended off-highway vehicle (OHV) use designations for the Lewis and Clark Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). This alternative was not analyzed further because various resource and human use issues indicated OHV management should be addressed on a broad scale rather than for small, isolated parcels such as those contained within the SRMA.

Public Lands Disposal Through Exchange

- It was considered whether to describe and analyze potential land exchange alternatives in conjunction with the amendment decision that provides for potential disposal of about 2,200 acres of public lands that are currently classified in a retention category. The Salmon Field Office - BLM decided a land exchange proposal and alternatives would be more appropriately considered and analyzed at the site-specific project level, and the RMP amendment should be limited in scope to the proposed change in land retention status (which enables future consideration of a land exchange proposal for those 2,200 acres).

Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation and Management:

- An alternative where the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation would encompass a management area lying between Kriley Gulch and the Agency Creek drainage and extending from the Lemhi and Salmon rivers to the Continental Divide was considered. Visual resource management of the SRMA would be Class II and OHV use would be limited to designated routes. The Salmon Field Office - BLM decided such an extensive management area was not needed to provide adequate recreation and cultural resource management of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Landscape management concerns for the Continental Divide area are addressed within the remaining amendment alternatives. The alternatives propose this area as VRM Class II and propose that OHV use be limited to designated routes (in some areas) and existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails (in the remainder of the area).
- An alternative was considered where the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation would be similar in size to the existing SRMA, but be moved to cover the currently known Trail location. This alternative was not analyzed further because initial assessment indicated a larger management area was needed to provide comprehensive management of the Trail and associated recreational, natural, scenic, historic, and cultural values.
- Alternatives for management of the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, including future management of the Agency Creek Recreation Site, recreation facilities development, and interpretation, were discussed. These alternatives were dropped because they were more appropriate to develop and analyze at the activity or project planning level.
- An alternative was considered where the SRMA would also be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), in order to better manage locatable mineral development along the Trail (a Plan of Operations is required for any locatable mineral development in an ACEC). This alternative was not analyzed further because the SRMA has low potential for locatable mineral development and associated impacts. In addition, a high level of restriction is only deemed necessary along the Trail corridor, which has been recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry in the amendment alternatives.

Table 1: Lemhi RMP Proposed Amendment and Alternatives

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
Cultural Resources	All cultural sites identified as special management areas will be closed to off-road vehicle use, vegetation manipulation, and surface occupancy. (p. 47)	<u>Delete</u> this standard operating procedure.		
Fire Management	<p>pp. 3-4, 15, 46, (fire)</p> <p>“Develop a fire management plan ... 4. Economic impacts of any fire management alternatives.” (pp. 3-4)</p> <p>“Manage fire for the protection and enhancement of resource values such as livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and timber. Reduce fire hazard potential on 10,000 acres.” “Full suppression fire management guidelines will be followed on 444,770 acres. Under this alternative, 14,796 acres will be managed under suppression restrictions to maintain wilderness quality. All developed recreation sites and sites that have the potential for site development will be under suppression restrictions, i.e., no retardant, no heavy equipment use, and no fire line explosives. Prescribed burning for vegetation manipulation will be conducted on 30,078 acres. Heavy fuel loading caused by logging debris and dead trees will be reduced on 10,000 acres to decrease the likelihood of having a disastrous fire.” (p. 15)</p>	<p>The following fire management direction <u>replaces</u> existing fire management and vegetation treatment guidance quoted in the adjacent column. This amendment also <u>renders void</u> the prescribed burning, fire hazard treatment, seeding, and brush control sites identified on Map 4 of the Proposed RMP.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Fire Management</p> <p>Develop a fire management plan through an interdisciplinary team process, to further direct fire management on public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office. Until additional fire management planning is completed, continue full suppression of wildfires throughout the Field Office area; within the Eighteenmile WSA, suppression efforts would emphasize maintenance of wilderness qualities. As appropriate, incorporate fire management planning in other activity planning efforts.</p> <p>Manage fire and fire suppression activities so as to minimize risks to public and firefighter safety, expenditures of public funds, and harmful impacts to resource values (e.g., National Historic and Scenic Trails, cultural sites, habitat for special status species). Avoid fire suppression actions which cause ground disturbance along the Nez Perce Trail, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, unless required for public or firefighter safety. Also manage fire to support resource management objectives identified during planning efforts and to maximize beneficial impacts to resource values. When necessary to prevent extensive resource damage (e.g., severe erosion, sediment impacts to crucial fisheries habitat), or as otherwise deemed necessary based on interdisciplinary team review, rehabilitate public lands affected by fire, emphasizing the maintenance and restoration of native plant species and communities.</p> <p>(continued)</p>		

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
Fire Management (cont.)	<p>"The primary fire protection objective will continue to be the control of all wildfires on or threatening public land during the first burning period." (p. 46) "The resource area has many allowed to burn out residents or tourists." (p. 46)</p> <p><u>pp. 11, 12 (vegetation treatments)</u></p> <p>"Proposed improvements will include 22,700 acres of brush control, 4,400 acres of seedings," (p. 11)</p> <p>"Prescribed burning will occur on 7,320 acres of big game range and 40 acres of river habitat." (p. 12)</p>	<p>Use prescribed fire and other vegetation treatment methods for any of the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reduce fuel hazards and the threat of catastrophic fire events, including consideration of any local communities at risk; • to maintain or enhance resource values or conditions, or otherwise support resource management objectives; • to protect or enhance habitat for special status species; • for research or education; and • to support tribal treaty rights or otherwise address tribal interests. <p>Within the Eighteenmile WSA, manage fire according to the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM 1995) (see Appendix A), or the most current applicable policy. If the WSA is released from wilderness review, manage fire on public lands within the former WSA according to the fire management guidance stated in the paragraphs above.</p> <p>(Note: See <i>Glossary</i> for definitions of the following terms: catastrophic fire event, fire suppression, fuel hazard, interdisciplinary team, prescribed fire (burning), public lands, restoration, special status species.)</p>		
	<p>"Administrative actions will comply with the air quality classification for that specific area [Class II]." p. 44</p>	<p>The following action would be <u>in addition to</u> existing management on p. 44: "Fire management activities (<i>e.g.</i>, fire management planning, prescribed burning, fire suppression) will consider air quality concerns and conform to relevant law, regulation, and policy related to air quality management."</p>		
Lands - Retention and Disposal (Transfer)	<p>"Public lands in a limited use class will be retained in federal ownership." (RMP, p. 8) "Public lands in an intensive use/development class will be retained in federal ownership." (RMP, p. 9)</p>	<p>The following statements are <u>an exception</u> to existing management on page 8: "Consider disposal of the Agency Creek Recreation Site and approximately 2,200 acres of other public lands (see Map 2), currently identified for retention, as part of potential land exchanges that would allow acquisition of land with values such as segments of the Lewis and Clark Trail, riparian habitat, fisheries and wildlife values, and/or potential recreation sites.</p>		

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
Lands - Acquisition	<p>"BLM will acquire 5,600 acres. (Refer to Map 3 in Appendix of Lemhi Proposed RMP and Final EIS, June 1986)." (RMP, p. 10)</p> <p>The BLM will acquire 4,960 acres of state land and 640 acres of private land to protect critical habitat in the McDevitt Creek and Center Ridge areas." (RMP, p. 12)</p> <p>"Acquisitions will be aimed at benefitting the wildlife program." (RMP, p. 20, paragraph 6)</p> <p>"Land acquisitions include the possibility of acquiring 1,240 acres of private and 4,360 acres of state land." (RMP, p. 20)</p> <p>"Objectives for acquiring public lands are discussed under activity needs with the alternatives." (p. 28 - refers to p. 12 above)</p> <p>"Easements will be obtained across private property as needed for general public use and public land management by the BLM." (RMP, p. 31)</p>	<p>The following statements <u>replace</u> existing management stated in the adjacent column: "Acquired lands shall be managed for the purposes for which acquired, and, to the extent practical, in a manner that is consistent with adjacent public lands or public lands with similar resource values. Through land exchange, donation, or willing-seller purchase, seek to acquire land and interest in land (such as easements) containing important public and natural resource values and to consolidate public land, resolve unauthorized use conflicts, and acquire public access."</p>		

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
Minerals - Management Within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA	<p>“Withdrawal of 1,820 acres from mineral entry will protect the trail route from disturbance.” (p. 14)</p> <p>“A no-surface-occupancy stipulation will also be added to all leases within these 1,820 acres.” (p. 14)</p> <p>“These sites will be protected from surface disturbance through appropriate withdrawals and no-surface-occupancy restrictions: ... Lewis and Clark Trail” (p. 16)</p>	<p>The following statement <u>replaces</u> existing minerals management on pp. 14 and 16: “To protect the Lewis and Clark Trail route from disturbance, 1,820 acres are recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and stipulated no-surface occupancy for mineral leasing (see Map 3). Close and rehabilitate the “River Bluffs” community pit (located in T.22N., R.22.E, B.M., Section 32:SE¼NE¼). Limit minerals exploration and development activity to locations along designated travel routes within the SRMA (see OHV management) and to project designs which conform with VRM Class guidelines (see Visual Resource Management). When issuing permits or authorization for minerals exploration or development within the SRMA, incorporate measures to protect the Lewis and Clark Trail and related recreational, cultural, historical, scenic, and natural values.”</p>		<p>The following statement <u>replaces</u> existing minerals management on pp. 14 and 16: “To protect the Lewis and Clark Trail route from disturbance, approximately 4,840 acres (at least one-eighth mile either side of the known and possible Trail route) are recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and stipulated no-surface occupancy for mineral leasing (see Map 4). Close and rehabilitate the “River Bluffs” community pit (located in T.22N., R.22.E, B.M., Section 32:SE¼NE¼). Limit minerals exploration and development activity to locations along designated travel routes within the SRMA (see OHV management) and to project designs which conform with VRM Class guidelines (see Visual Resource Management). When issuing permits or authorization for minerals exploration or development within the SRMA, incorporate measures to protect the Lewis and Clark Trail and related recreational, cultural, historical, scenic, and natural values.”</p>
Public Lands Managed According to the Ellis-Pah- simeroi MFP	<p>“The entire Ellis-Pahsimeroi area was recently covered by the <u>Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</u> (1982). Since that plan is still current, the BLM has not developed or analyzed a new plan for that portion of the Ellis Planning Unit which is now in the Lemhi Resource Area.” (RMP, p. 1)</p>	<p>The following statements <u>replace</u> existing management on p. 1: “The 40,000 acres formerly managed as part of the Ellis Planning Unit under the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan (see Map 1) will be managed under the off-highway vehicle use, visual resource management, fire management, and lands provisions of this RMP amendment. Livestock grazing management will be consistent with the allocations stated in the 1987 Rangeland Program Summary; <i>i.e.</i>, 2,923 AUMs of active preference will be allocated on 40,506 acres of public land within eight allotments. Management of other resources and values on those 40,000 acres will be according to the general guidelines and standard operating procedures stated in the Lemhi RMP, as amended.”</p>		

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management	<p>OHV Management Stated in the RMP: Lands open to unrestricted vehicle use will total 428,540 acres (93 percent). Recreational off-road vehicle use will continue to be limited during winter months on 16,230 acres (6 percent of the RMP area) of big game winter range." "A year-round closure to all vehicle use will be placed on 14,796 acres (3.5 percent of the RMP area) because of a wilderness designation." (RMP, p. 14) "Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas only where problems have been identified." (p. 45) "All cultural sites identified as special management areas will be closed to off-road vehicle use...." (p. 47)</p>	<p>Sections 1 through 5 below <u>replace</u> existing off-highway vehicle use management described on pp. 14, 45, and 47 of the 1987 Lemhi RMP, and pp. 14 and 15 of the RNA/ACEC plan amendment (1987). Off-highway vehicle use designations are defined as follows:</p> <p>Closed - Motorized vehicle travel is prohibited in the area. Access by means other than motorized vehicle is permitted.</p> <p>Limited - Motorized vehicle travel within specified areas and/or on designated routes, roads, vehicle ways, or trails is subject to restrictions. Those restrictions are listed in decisions 2, 3, and 5 below.</p> <p>Open - Motorized vehicle travel is permitted year-long anywhere within an area designated as "open" to OHV use, if the vehicle is operated responsibly.</p>		
		<p>1. Off-highway vehicle use designations are as follows (see Map 5) (and percentages are approximate):</p> <p>"Closed": 28,442 acres (6%) "Limited": 464,946 acres (94%) "Open": 0 acres (0%)</p>	<p>1. Off-highway vehicle use designations are as follows (see Map 6) (acres and percentages are approximate):</p> <p>"Closed": 2,344 acres (0.5%) "Limited": 281,084 acres (57.0%) "Open": 209,960 acres (42.5%)</p>	<p>1. Off-highway vehicle use designations are as follows (see Map 7) (acres and percentages are approximate):</p> <p>"Closed": 2,344 acres (0.5%) "Limited": 491,044 acres (99.5%) "Open": 0 acres (0 %)</p> <p>Reassess OHV management throughout the Field Office area no later than 2007 to determine if changes in management would be appropriate to achieve the broadest range of use opportunities. During the assessment, consider the following: Need for access; recreation opportunities; public safety; use conflicts; ability to properly maintain roads; and resource concerns such as highly erodible or fragile soils, protection of cultural resources, historic sites/areas, sacred and traditional areas, visual resources, special status species habitat, water quality, wildlife habitat, threat of weed invasion, retention of wilderness characteristics, and wetland and riparian habitat. Any changes to an area's designation as "open," "limited," or "closed" would be implemented through a land use plan amendment.</p>

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management (continued)	<p><u>OHV Management Stated in the RNA/ACEC Amendment</u> (September 1987):</p> <p>"Close the [Trail Creek] area to ORV use." (p. 14) "Vehicle use in the [Sevenmile] area would be limited to authorized vehicles only." (p. 15)</p>	<p>2. Designate and manage OHV use within the Eighteenmile WSA as follows: (a) Designate the Eighteenmile WSA (about 24,922 acres) as "closed" to OHV use (see Map 5). (b) Temporary exceptions for OHV use would be allowed in emergencies and search and rescue operations when specifically authorized by the BLM, as provided for in the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (see Appendix B). Any portions of the Eighteenmile WSA released from wilderness review would continue to be designated "closed."</p>	<p>2. Designate and manage OHV use within the Eighteenmile WSA as follows: (a) Designate the Eighteenmile WSA (about 24,922 acres) as "limited," where the OHV use is limited to designated routes (see Maps 6 and 8). (b) OHV use off of designated routes would be allowed in emergencies and search and rescue operations, for official purposes by the BLM and other Federal, State, and local agencies, and to build or maintain structures and installations, as specifically provided for in the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (see Appendix B). OHV use on any portions of the Eighteenmile WSA released from wilderness review would continue to be limited to designated routes.</p>	<p>2. Same as Alternative B, except Map 7 shows the different designated routes proposed under this alternative. Also see Map 9 for OHV designations that would apply to the Field Office area under Alternative C.</p>

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management (continued)		<p>3. Except for within the Eighteenmile WSA, temporary exceptions to the OHV use limitations and closures listed in #4 and 5 below may be authorized for any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while it is being used for emergency purposes; any vehicle in official use; and any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized in writing by the authorized officer.</p> <p>In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails (see #5 below), some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted, as displayed on Maps 5, 10, 13, 17, and 19: (a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game; (b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood; (c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle; (d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover; (e) snowmobile use on groomed trails only.</p>	<p>3. Same as Alternative A, except see Maps 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 19 for the areas and types of exceptions for off-road travel that would be permitted under Alternative B.</p>	<p>3. Except for within the Eighteenmile WSA, temporary exceptions to the OHV use limitations and closures listed in #4 and 5 below may be authorized for any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while it is being used for emergency purposes; any vehicle in official use; and any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized in writing by the authorized officer.</p> <p>In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails (see #5 below), some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted, as displayed on Maps 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 19: (a) within 300 feet of designated routes or existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products; (b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle; (c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover; (d) snowmobile use on groomed trails only.</p>

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management (continued)		4. The Trail Creek ACEC (236 acres) and the suitable portion of the Eighteenmile WSA (14,796 acres) would continue to be designated "closed" to OHV use. In addition, designate the following areas (about 13,410 acres) as "closed" to OHV use: the hillside behind the Chief Tendoy Cemetery, the Sevenmile ACEC, the remainder of the Eighteenmile WSA, and the Birch Creek Springs area (but continue to allow vehicle travel on State Highway 28 through the Birch Creek Springs area) (see Map 5).	4. The Trail Creek ACEC (236 acres) would continue to be designated "closed" to OHV use. In addition, designate the following areas (about 2,108 acres) as "closed" to OHV use: the hillside behind the Chief Tendoy Cemetery and the Birch Creek Springs area (but continue to allow vehicle travel on State Highway 28 through the Birch Creek Springs area) (see Map 6).	4. Same as Alternative B, except see Map 7 for OHV designations that would apply to the Salmon Field Office area under Alternative C.
		5. OHV use on approximately 464,946 acres is designated "limited," with the limitations as described in (5a) through (5e) below.	5. OHV use on approximately 281,084 acres is designated "limited," with the limitations as described in (5a) through (5e) below.	5. OHV use on approximately 491,044 acres is designated "limited," with the limitations as described in (5a) through (5e) below.
		Changes to OHV limitations within an area designated "limited" may be initiated during activity planning, with public, tribal, and agency involvement and appropriate environmental analysis, if additional or revised OHV management is necessary to address one or more of the following concerns: highly erodible or fragile soils; protection of cultural resources, historic sites, or sacred or traditional use areas; visual resource concerns; motorist safety; wildlife habitat protection; conflicts with private landowners; conflicts with non-motorized recreation uses; water quality, riparian habitat, or watershed protection concerns; threatened or endangered species habitat; retention of wilderness characteristics; habitat for rare/sensitive plants; or threat of weed invasion.		Changes to OHV limitations within areas designated as "limited" (but that would not change the OHV designation from "limited" to either "open" or "closed") may be initiated at any time through activity planning, with public, tribal, and agency involvement and appropriate environmental analysis.

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management (continued)		(5a) OHV use in the following areas (about 60,206 acres) is limited to designated routes and OHV use areas (see Maps 5, 10, 13, 17, and 19): the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, Chief Tendoy Cemetery, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA, designated recreation sites, and the Hayden Creek drainage. OHV use within the R&PP lease area would be limited to the designated routes and use areas shown on Map 13. Cross-country motorized travel would be permitted within the designated use area yearlong, unless access to the R&PP lease area is temporarily restricted due to soil moisture conditions (see OHV #5d below).	(5a) OHV use in the following areas (about 56,696 acres) is limited to designated routes and OHV use areas (see Maps 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 19): Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, Chief Tendoy Cemetery, Eighteenmile WSA, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA, the R&PP motorized recreation lease area, the Sevenmile ACEC, and designated recreation sites. OHV use within the R&PP lease area would be limited to the designated routes and use areas shown on Map 13. Cross-country motorized travel would be permitted within the designated use area yearlong, unless access to the R&PP lease area is temporarily restricted due to soil moisture conditions (see OHV #5d below).	(5a) OHV use in the following areas (about 88,659 acres) is limited to designated routes and OHV use areas (see Maps 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 19): the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, Chief Tendoy Cemetery, Eighteenmile WSA, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA, Sevenmile ACEC, designated recreation sites, and the Hayden Creek/Basin Creek/Muddy Creek area. OHV use within the R&PP lease area would be limited to the designated routes and use areas shown on Map 14. Cross-country motorized travel would be permitted within the designated use area yearlong, unless access to the R&PP lease area is temporarily restricted due to soil moisture conditions (see OHV #5d below).
		(5b) OHV use on approximately 388,993 acres is limited to the existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails visible on 1993-1994 aerial photos (see Map 5).	(5b) OHV use on approximately 209,871 acres is limited to the existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails visible on 1993-1994 aerial photos (see Map 6).	(5b) OHV use on approximately 402,385 acres is limited to the existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails visible on 1993-1994 aerial photos and/or 1992 digital orthophotos, as verified through on-the-ground field review (see Map 7). Vehicle travel on single-track vehicle ways is limited to two-wheeled vehicles and will not promote expansion of those ways into two-track routes.

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management (cont.)		<p>(5c) OHV use in the Agency/Pattee/Kenney Creek, Badger Springs Gulch, and Tower Creek areas (about 38,902 acres) is prohibited from October 1 through April 30 to address wildlife habitat concerns (see Maps 5, 10, and 13), with some exceptions for motorized vehicle use on the routes indicated below.</p> <p><u>Agency/Pattee/Kenney Creek.</u> The Agency Creek Road, Alkali Flat Road, about 4 miles of the Pattee Creek Road, and the Warm Springs Wood Road shall remain open to motorized use year-long, and the following route shall be designated and maintained as a groomed snowmobile route: The Divide Road from Lemhi Pass south to the Copper Queen Road to the Agency Creek Road.</p> <p><u>Tower Creek:</u> The North Fork of Tower Creek Road, Tower Creek Road, and Kriley Gulch Road shall remain open to motorized use year-long.</p> <p>From May 1 through September 30, OHV use in the Agency/Pattee/Kenney Creek, Badger Springs Gulch, and Tower Creek areas is limited to designated routes or existing roads, ways, and trails, as shown on Maps 5, 10, and 13.</p>	<p>(5c) OHV use in the Agency/Pattee Creek and Badger Springs Gulch areas (about 26,038 acres) is prohibited from December 16 through April 30 to address wildlife habitat concerns (see Maps 6, 11, and 13), with some exceptions for motorized vehicle use on the routes indicated below.</p> <p><u>Agency/Pattee Creek:</u> The Agency Creek Road and Warm Springs Wood Road shall remain open to motorized use year-long, and the following route shall be designated and maintained as a groomed snowmobile route: The Divide Road from Lemhi Pass south to the Copper Queen Road to the Agency Creek Road.</p> <p>From May 1 through December 15, OHV use in the Agency/Pattee Creek and Badger Springs Gulch areas is limited to designated routes or existing roads, ways, and trails, as shown on Maps 6, 11, and 13.</p> <p>OHV use in the Tower Creek area (about 5,192 acres) is prohibited from October 1 through April 30 to address wildlife habitat concerns, except the following roads shall remain open year-long: North Fork of Tower Creek Road, Tower Creek Road, Kriley Gulch Road. From May 1 through September 30 motorized vehicle use on designated vehicle ways is limited to vehicles 40 inches in width or narrower (see Map 13).</p>	<p>(5c) OHV use in the Agency/Pattee/Kenney Creek, Badger Springs Gulch, and Tower Creek areas (about 38,902 acres) is prohibited from December 16 through April 30 to address wildlife habitat concerns (see Maps 7, 12, and 14), with some exceptions for motorized vehicle use on the routes indicated below.</p> <p><u>Agency/Pattee/Kenney Creek:</u> The Agency Creek Road, Alkali Flat Road, about 4 miles of the Pattee Creek Road, and the Warm Springs Wood Road shall remain open to motorized use year-long, and the following route shall be designated as a snowmobile route: The Divide Road from Lemhi Pass south to the Copper Queen Road to the Agency Creek Road.</p> <p><u>Tower Creek:</u> The North Fork of Tower Creek Road, Tower Creek Road, and Kriley Gulch Road shall remain open to motorized use year-long.</p> <p>From May 1 through December 15, OHV use in the Agency/Pattee/Kenney Creek, Badger Springs Gulch, and Tower Creek areas is limited to designated routes or existing roads, ways, and trails, as shown on Maps 7, 12, and 14.</p>

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
OHV Management (cont.)		(5d) Within areas limited to designated routes and OHV use areas or to existing roads, ways, and trails, additional OHV use limitations are, or may be, implemented in the following areas to address erosion concerns:		
		(1) Motorized access to and within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA may be limited seasonally, if soil moisture conditions indicate resource damage is likely.		
		(2) OHV use on existing roads, ways, and trails in the Henry Creek area (about 4,046 acres) is limited to vehicles 40 inches or narrower from April 11 through September 19. No motorized vehicle use is allowed from September 20 through April 10 (see Map 5).	(2) Same as Alternative A, except see Map 6 for the Salmon Field Office area's OHV designations under Alternative B.	(2) OHV use on existing roads, ways, and trails in the Henry Creek area (about 4,046 acres) is limited to vehicles 48 inches or narrower from April 11 through September 19. No motorized vehicle use is allowed from September 20 through April 10 (see Map 7).
		(3) Motorized vehicle travel on some designated routes in the Hayden Creek drainage is prohibited from December 16 through April 30 (see Map 17).	(3) Motorized vehicle travel in the Hayden, Muddy, and Basin Creek drainages is limited to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails.	(3) Motorized vehicle travel on some designated routes in the Hayden, Basin, and Muddy Creek drainages is prohibited from March 1 through June 15 (see Map 18).
		(5e) No vehicle travel is allowed on the following roads constructed for previous timber sales, unless specifically authorized by the BLM (see Maps 5, 6, and 7): Baldy Basin Timber Sale Road Sawmill Canyon Timber Sale Road Birch Creek Timber Sale Road McDevitt Creek Timber Sale Road		
		6. Vehicle use authorization for newly constructed roads will be identified when the road construction proposal is developed and analyzed. Any vehicle use authorization will be consistent with the OHV designation for the project area.		
Recreation - All SRMAs	"Recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in the three special recreation management areas...." (p. 13)	The following statement would <u>replace</u> existing management on p. 13 (change noted in italics): "Recognize recreation as <i>a</i> principal use of the lands in the three special recreation management areas..."		

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation and Management Emphasis	<p>"The Lewis and Clark Trail will include 9,080 acres that will result from establishing a corridor wide enough to retain the natural aspects of the historic trail route. Visual resources within the corridor will be managed under Class II guidelines. Withdrawal of 1,820 acres from mineral entry will protect the trail route from disturbance. A no-surface-occupancy stipulation will also be added to all leases within these 1,820 acres" (p. 14)</p> <p>Note: The boundaries of the existing Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA are shown on Map 20.</p>	<p>The following statements <u>replace</u> existing management on p. 14: "The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA will contain approximately 31,014 acres of public lands, as shown on Map 21. The SRMA will include three segments of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (totaling approximately 16.5 miles), as well as adjacent public lands. The 230 acres leased to Lemhi County for a motorized recreation use area are included within the SRMA boundary. Management of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA shall provide for the education and enjoyment of visitors to the SRMA, while simultaneously retaining natural aspects of the historic trail route and protecting the integrity of intact segments of trail tread and associated cultural sites. Management of fire, minerals, off-highway vehicle use, visual resources, and lands retention, disposal, or acquisition within the SRMA shall be as stated in those sections of this RMP amendment."</p>	<p>The following statements <u>replace</u> existing management on p. 14: "The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA will contain approximately 30,784 acres of public lands, as shown on Map 21. The SRMA will include three segments of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (totaling approximately 16.0 miles), as well as adjacent public lands. The 230 acres leased to Lemhi County for a motorized recreation use area are excluded from the SRMA boundary. Any public lands relinquished from the lease in the future will be incorporated into the SRMA, and any public lands added to the leased area will be excluded from the SRMA. Management of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA shall provide for the education and enjoyment of visitors to the SRMA, while simultaneously retaining natural aspects of the historic trail route and protecting the integrity of intact segments or trail tread and associated cultural sites. Management of fire, minerals, off-highway vehicle use, visual resources, and lands retention, disposal, or acquisition within the SRMA shall be as stated in those sections of this RMP amendment."</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

Resource/ Program	Existing Management (1987 RMP, as amended)	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C - Proposed Amendment
Visual Resource Management	<p>“Visual resources within the [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail] corridor will be managed under Class II guidelines.” (p. 14)</p> <p>“Manage the visual resources on lands outside of the special recreation management areas to maintain existing scenic qualities.” (RMP, p. 13)</p> <p>“For visual resource management, the following designations will be made: Class I, 14,796 acres; Class II, 29,280 acres; Class III, 184,205 acres; and Class IV, 231,285 acres. No interim classes would remain.” (RMP, p. 14)</p>	<p>The following statements <u>replace</u> existing visual resources management on pp. 13 and 14: “Visual resources will be managed according to the VRM Class designations shown on Map 22 (see Glossary: visual resource management classes). The following areas (about 29,345 acres) shall be managed according to VRM Class I guidelines: Eighteenmile WSA, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA (1/4-mile either side of the trail tread), Trail Creek ACEC, and Birch Creek Springs area. The following areas (about 51,633 acres) shall be managed according to VRM Class III guidelines: the Sevenmile ACEC, the basins visible from the Salmon community landfill and rifle range; some public lands outside the visual foreground of the Salmon River (but no less than 1/4-mile from the river on either side); and public lands (except for the Trail Creek ACEC) on the west side of the Lemhi River Valley between Hayden and Haynes creeks and the USFS boundary, and not readily visible from State Highway 28 or the Hayden Creek and Haynes Creek roads. The remaining public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office (about 412,410 acres) shall be managed according to VRM Class II guidelines, including any portions of the Eighteenmile WSA that are released from wilderness review.”</p>	<p>The following statements <u>replace</u> existing visual resources management on pp. 13 and 14: “Visual resources will be managed according to the VRM Class designations shown on Map 23 (see Glossary: visual resource management classes). The following areas (about 28,275 acres) shall be managed according to VRM Class I guidelines: Eighteenmile WSA, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA (1/4-mile either side of the trail tread), and Trail Creek ACEC. The following areas (about 271,147 acres) shall be managed according to VRM Class II guidelines: the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA; the visual foreground-midground along State Highway 28 and State Highway 29 (less than or equal to 3 miles), including the Birch Creek Springs area; any portions of the Eighteenmile WSA that are released from wilderness review; and the Salmon River SRMA and public lands visible from or along the Salmon River (except the following areas, which shall be managed according to VRM Class III guidelines: the Sevenmile ACEC, public lands near the community landfill and rifle range, the R&PP motorized recreation use lease site; and public lands from the Ezra Creek drainage north to Rattlesnake Creek). The remaining public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office (about 193,966 acres) shall be managed according to VRM Class III guidelines.</p>	

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

General Setting: The Salmon Field Office is located in east-central Idaho (see Map 1) and encompasses approximately 494,837 acres of public land. The Field Office area is part of the Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater District - BLM. It includes public lands to the north and south of the town of Salmon, Idaho; public lands to the southeast of Salmon, along the Lemhi River Valley; and public lands within the upper reaches of the Birch Creek drainage. The Field Office boundary adjoins the Upper Snake River District - BLM to the southeast, at the Clark and Butte county lines; the Challis Field Office - BLM at Hat Creek, south of Salmon; the Salmon-Challis National Forest to the north and west, and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Targhee National Forests to the east. The Lemhi and Salmon rivers run through the area.

Elevations vary from about 4,000 feet at Salmon to 11,000 feet along the Continental Divide. Climate varies from semi-arid to sub-humid. Precipitation varies from 9 inches at Salmon to 22 inches at the higher elevations and occurs mostly as snow during the winter and spring.

Land Status: The Salmon Field Office administers approximately 494,837 acres of public land. This acreage includes the 459,566 acres from the Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP); 40,000 acres that were part of the Ellis-Pahsimeroi area; and adjustments for land disposals and acquisitions. (**Note:** acreage calculations for the proposed amendment, alternatives, and analysis were calculated from mapping/GIS; all acreage values are approximate.) Private lands which were once in public ownership were conveyed out of public ownership through various laws including the Public Sale Act, the Desert Land Entry Act, Mineral Entry, Homestead Entry Act(s), Carey Act, Cash Entry Act, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Land ownership patterns in the area have been dictated primarily by the topography and location of water. Most of the private land lies close to the town of Salmon, Idaho, along the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers and the numerous creeks that are tributaries to these rivers. Lands along the water courses are generally the more fertile and level areas, making them suitable for agricultural use and home site development.

Land Disposal and Acquisitions: Land tenure adjustments are the disposal of Federal lands and/or the acquisition of private lands or interests in land. Adjustments in land ownership are accomplished through disposal actions such as sales, exchanges, Desert Land Entries, and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) patents. Acquisition of land occurs through exchanges and purchase or donation of lands or interest in lands (easements).

In recent years, the BLM has been working on land exchanges as a way to consolidate public and private lands. This has allowed the BLM to acquire parcels of private land with high resource values and to dispose of a variety of lands, including those with encroaching private uses and isolated parcels.

The Desert Land Entry Act of March 3, 1877, as amended, provides for entries on public lands where there are suitable soils and where the applicant has adequate water to reclaim the arid and semi-arid lands. Most of the land with appropriate soils has already been transferred into private ownership; the Lemhi RMP only identified 1,300 acres with potential for Desert Land Entry.

Since the Lemhi RMP was completed in 1987, the following land disposal and acquisition actions have taken place, for a net transfer of 4,718.66 acres of public lands:

# of Actions	Type of Action	Acres Acquired	Acres Transferred
1	Easement Acquisition	10.10	
35	Land Exchange	1,178.96	5,429.46
3	Desert Land Entry (1989-1991)		280.00
4	Public Sales (all in 1987)		19.74
3	R&PP Sales (all in 1993)		178.52
Total Acreage		1,189.06	5,907.72

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Some of the following elements of the human environment are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, executive order, or policy and must be considered in all environmental assessments. Others have been added to the following list because of their importance in assessing impacts. All the following elements have been analyzed. However, elements denoted by an "X" are not affected by the proposed action and will receive no further consideration.

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farm Lands (prime or unique)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Religious Concerns
<input type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Plants
<input type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality - Surface & Ground	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic Rivers	<input type="checkbox"/> Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands/Riparian Zones (including uplands)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wild Horse and Burro Designated Herd Management Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation types, communities; vegetative permits and sales; rangeland resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive, Non-native Species
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Feasibility of Agricultural Entry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paleontological Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Trust Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Treaty Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Use, Existing and Potential	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing and Potential Land Uses	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic & Social Values
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice (EO 12989) (minority and low-income populations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No chemical or chemicals from the EPA's <u>Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to Reporting Under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986</u> , (10,000 pounds or more), will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in implementing the proposed action. No extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in implementing the proposed action. <i>If this element is not checked, see EA document for further details concerning these chemicals and/or hazardous substances.</i>	

Affected Resources/Values:

The critical elements *NOT* checked above are discussed in the following Affected Environment sections.

AIR QUALITY

Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), all BLM-administered lands in the Salmon Field Office area were given PSD Class II status (which allows moderate air quality deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth). Salmon Field Office lands, including the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area, will continue to be managed as PSD Class II unless they are reclassified by the State of Idaho as a result of procedures identified in the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977). PSD Class I areas that could potentially be affected by BLM management actions within the Salmon Field Office area include the Selway-Bitterroot and Pintlar Wilderness Areas and Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Communities that could potentially be affected by management actions within the Salmon Field Office area include Salmon, Challis, Leadore, Carmen, and Tendoy, Idaho; and Wisdom, Jackson, and Dillon, Montana.

Air quality in the Salmon Field Office area is generally excellent, because of the remoteness of the area's geographical location in east-central Idaho. Some degradation occurs within the Field Office area, but it is usually seasonal and short-term. Occasionally, smoke haze occurs when forest or rangeland wildfires and/or prescribed fires are burning locally. Smoke haze can also develop when forest and/or rangeland fires are burning in northern Idaho, Montana, Nevada and/or California. Smoke from such fires is borne on the prevailing winds, and can result in hazy conditions for a few days to several weeks. In the winter months air inversions sometimes develop in the valleys. Valleys with larger populations (*e.g.*, Salmon) can experience an increase in smoke haze from wood burning heaters and other urban pollutants. During an inversion the air movement stagnates and prevailing winds do not disperse the pollutants. Inversions can last from one to many days, during which time a decrease in air quality occurs. Other minor pollutants include smoke from local burning (*e.g.*, ditches, fields, and fence lines) and dust from vehicular traffic on unpaved roads and off-road. This burning is not controlled or regulated except during fire season. During fire seasons a burning permit is required by the Idaho Department of Lands.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN/RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

The Salmon Field Office manages one Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)/Research Natural Area (RNA), the Trail Creek ACEC/RNA, and one ACEC, the Sevenmile ACEC. The Salmon District Final Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for RNA/ACEC (BLM, December 1987) designated the Trail Creek ACEC/RNA and Sevenmile ACEC and approved management actions for both areas.

The Trail Creek ACEC/RNA is a 236-acre area located adjacent to the Lemhi Mountains divide at the headwaters of the Trail Creek drainage approximately 23 miles due south of Salmon, Idaho. The Trail Creek ACEC/RNA was designated due to its pristine meadow complex, premier elk habitat, and the existence of the rare plant, mountain dandelion (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*). This is likely the only unroaded, ungrazed, old growth timber/riparian habitat remaining on lands administered by the Salmon Field Office.

The 1,060-acre Sevenmile ACEC includes the lower portion of the Sevenmile Creek drainage, which is a tributary to the Salmon River. The area is approximately seven miles south of Salmon, Idaho, on the western slope of Sal Mountain. The area is considered a natural hazard due to its instability. Although natural slumping does occur in the area, roads and irrigation ditches have accelerated the natural geologic processes. Increased sedimentation impacts both the anadromous fishery of the Salmon River and the recreational experiences of anglers and floaters by significantly reducing water clarity. There is indication that slumps could occur that could slow or halt traffic along U.S. Highway 93 which crosses the base of the drainage along the Salmon River.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

BLM lands managed by the Salmon Field Office contain 370 recorded cultural resources, including an historically significant portion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and associated cultural resources. As a federal land management agency, the BLM is mandated to protect, manage, and enhance archaeological, historical, architectural, and traditional cultural properties located on lands under its jurisdiction (as well as properties on non-federal lands that might be affected by BLM undertakings). Cultural resources are generally identified and documented through intensive field inventories conducted by qualified professionals to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Informants' knowledge, historical records, and ethnographic field work have also contributed at various times to the identification of historical or traditional lifeway values in the Salmon Field Office area.

A well-preserved and diverse Native American cultural heritage is documented across the Salmon Field Office area, reflecting changing patterns of landscape usage and subsistence over a time span exceeding 11,000 years. Recorded cultural remains occur on nearly the entire range of physical environments found within the Field Office area, from the highest mountain tops to the lowest valley floodplains. Native American resources of prehistoric and historic age are represented by a wide variety of recorded site types, including rockshelters, lithic scatters and quarry sites, stone alignments and structures, talus depressions, pictograph sites, and intact remnants of ancient trailways. The frequency of documented prehistoric cultural resources is generally greater in close proximity to water sources such as springs, creeks, and rivers. Terraces, proximal alluvial fan surfaces, ridge saddles, and canyon floor settings are additional high-probability zones for the occurrence of archaeological evidence.

Initial historic Euro-American immigration into the area was facilitated by the ancient Indian trails Captains Lewis and Clark followed through the area in August and September of 1805. This route guided the Corps of Discovery and subsequent fur traders and explorers across the Continental Divide and introduced a young Republic to the vast interior West. Several short segments of ancient trail tread, thought to be remnants of that route, are remarkably well-preserved within the Field Office area. These are fragile archaeological traces that are especially vulnerable to ground surface disturbance and uses.

The acceleration of Euro-American settlement and development of commerce in the area after the 1860s was primarily spurred on by the shimmering minerals locked in stream gravels and rock outcrops, as well as the verdant valleys and open range inviting early ranchers and farmers. The Salmon Field Office area includes a wide variety of cultural resources reflecting this prosperous era in the region's history. These cultural resources include the remains of short-lived boom towns; mining adits, shafts, and prospects; the Gilmore & Pittsburgh railroad grade; stage roads and pack trails; irrigation ditches and flumes; farmsteads and homesteads; and many other physical remnants of the late-19th and early-20th Century Euro-American cultural transformation of the region.

To date, intensive (Class III) cultural resource inventory in conjunction with proposed federal undertakings has resulted in examination of 4.9 percent or approximately 22,523 acres of public land managed by the Salmon Field Office. Other classes of archaeological inspection and identification, including systematic sampling strategies (Class II), have contributed an additional 3.1 percent or 13,830 acres of examined lands to the database. Most field work has historically been guided both in location and extent by proposed projects, including range-related undertakings in the lower foothills and valleys, and various timber- and fire-related proposals. Large, more remote, tracts of land have yet to be formally inventoried. The largest share of investigated acreage lies within the northern two-thirds of the Salmon Field Office area, with appreciably less intensive coverage across the southern sector (the upper Lemhi and upper Birch Creek valleys). To date, no cultural resource overview or synthesis (Class I report) has been completed for the Salmon Field Office.

The majority of cultural resources documented in the Salmon Field Office area have been formally evaluated for their potential local, regional, or national significance, which would qualify or deny them eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Approximately half of these historic properties meet the criteria of local or regional significance and have thus been determined to be eligible for listing. In addition, nearly all delineated sections of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail on public lands in the Field Office area are eligible for listing on the National Register; these public lands may also include certain localities of special historic importance that are eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks. The Trail is eligible for designation because of (a) its national importance to the American people as one of only a handful of designated National Historic Trails and (b) the unique state of preservation and associated cultural resources noted along portions of the Trail within the Salmon Field Office area.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES

The boundaries of the Salmon Field Office area lie within Lemhi County, Idaho, a rural area (1990 population was 6,899 persons) with population concentrations in and around the communities of Salmon, North Fork, Tendoy, and Leadore. This socio-economic description of Lemhi County and these communities is based on two sources: (1) *A Social, Economic and Fiscal Analysis of Custer and Lemhi Counties, Idaho: And Models*, a technical report prepared by the University of Idaho in fulfillment of a cooperative agreement among the BLM, USFS, Lemhi County, and Custer County (BLM 1994); and (2) a discussion of the local economy and society prepared for the Challis Proposed RMP and Final EIS (BLM 1998). The University of Idaho's report was completed in 1994 and some economic changes have occurred since it was published; however, the information summarized below is accurate enough to give an idea of the current general trends in the local economy and society.

In general, Lemhi County has a diverse economy. In 1991, employment in the County was allocated among the following economic sectors: businesses associated with visitors to the area (26%), agriculture (25%), State and Federal employment (24%), timber (11%), mining (7%), and other sources (6%). The spread of earnings among the various economic sectors was similarly diverse: State and Federal government (25%), agriculture (22%), business associated with visitors to the area (19%), timber (15%), mining (11%), and other sources (7%). However, some areas (sub-regions) of the county have a majority of income and earnings from one economic sector. The Tendoy-Leadore sub-region has a high percentage of agricultural employment and earnings (77% and 85%, respectively), while the North Fork sub-region emphasizes employment and earnings associated with visitors to the area (64% and 44%, respectively).

Lemhi County's estimated per capita income in 1991 was \$10,624, compared with an average per capita income of \$15,366 for Idaho and \$19,091 nationally. The poverty of the region may be due to the lack of full-time, yearlong employment opportunities and few higher-wage jobs.

Lemhi County has had steady increases in non-farm and total income since 1969, and fairly stable farm income. Net farm earnings have tended to fluctuate in step with cyclical trends in cattle prices. Government transfer payments (such as retirement pensions) have steadily increased since 1969, with a stabilizing influence on income and earnings in the County. Lemhi County experienced consistent growth in the service sector from 1969 to 1991, when medical, educational, social, recreational, and lodging services doubled. This trend in the growth of tourism-related business is expected to continue, since the area continues to be a popular vacation spot. However, growth in this economic sector will likely have only minimal benefit to the local economy in general, since jobs associated with visitors to the area are often low wage and seasonal. Mineral development (Beartrack Mine) from 1994 through early 2000 fostered local economic growth, as population, employment, and disposable income increased as a result of mine construction and operation.

In 1991 total expenditures for public goods and services in Lemhi County totaled 7.2 million dollars. In that same year County revenues from taxes were about 2.6 million dollars, while non-local aid (payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT - \$265,000), shared Federal timber and grazing receipts (\$745,000), and Federal and State funds and grants) approximated 5 million dollars. Because Lemhi County has acreage in public ownership (91%), the county is designated a sharing of Federal revenues (PILT) as a substitute for real property taxes.

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS

Existing and Potential Land Uses

Public lands provide resources for a variety of uses, including recreation (*e.g.*, camping, hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, cross country skiing); livestock grazing; wildlife and fisheries habitat; mineral and timber products; utility and transportation corridors; communication sites; irrigation facilities (fish screens, pipelines, ditches, reservoirs, etc.); and other uses.

Land Use Authorizations: Land use authorizations include right-of-way grants for utility systems, transportation systems, irrigation systems, and communication sites; Recreation and Public Purposes leases; and Land Use Permits. Rights-of-way are generally granted for 20 to 30 years with the right to be renewed. A 230-acre Recreation and Public Purposes lease has been issued to Lemhi County for a recreation area just north of Salmon, Idaho. The lease area includes a radio controlled airplane landing site and a moto-cross track. Land Use Permits have been issued to authorize private use of small parcels of public land. Many of the permitted parcels were historically fenced in and used with an adjacent parcel of private land. Permits are short-term authorizations, limited to three years, and can include authorization for existing agricultural uses (both irrigated and pasture), hay stacks, equipment storage areas, and related facilities; occupancies such as a structure built partially or completely on public land; advertising structures (signs, billboards, etc.); commercial filming activities; and other uses that cannot be authorized by a right-of-way.

Unauthorized Use: Unauthorized use or trespass areas have been identified and continue to be defined as the public land boundaries are surveyed. The most common type of trespass involves agricultural use of small acreage of public land. Historically, fences were constructed where they were easiest to build based on the terrain and soils. Most of the fences were not constructed along the private/public land boundaries. This created the situation of having public land fenced in and used with private land. Other unauthorized uses on public land include dumping household rubbish; removing timber and mineral resources; and construction of buildings, roads, ditches, and pipelines.

Withdrawals: Many types of withdrawals apply to public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office, including Public Water Reserves, USFS Administrative sites, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Withdrawals, Power Site Reserves, and Power Site Classifications. In addition, several of the BLM recreation sites are withdrawn from locatable mineral entry.

Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access

Not all roads under BLM jurisdiction have legal access across private and State lands; however, some current land owners allow public and BLM access. As private land is sold, some historic access to public lands is being blocked off.

FISHERIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED FISH; WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES; WATER QUALITY

Fisheries; Threatened/Endangered Fish

The watersheds in the Salmon Field Office area support a diverse community of game fish, including westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*), rainbow/steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*). They also provide spawning and rearing habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). The Salmon River is a migration corridor for sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) between the Pacific Ocean and Redfish Lake in central Idaho. During historic stocking, brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) were introduced in some areas. The Birch Creek sub-basin supports rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and the introduced brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). The Birch Creek sub-basin is a closed system with no migration occurring between it and surrounding sub-basins; however, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game currently stocks Birch Creek to support recreational fishing.

Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout are listed under the Endangered Species Act as either threatened or endangered species.

Most of the aquatic habitat in the Salmon Field Office area is in good condition, with a static or upward trend. The areas occupied by federally listed fish species are closely managed and have mostly good to excellent habitat.

Wetlands/Riparian Zones

There are two basic kinds of riparian vegetation in the Salmon Field Office area: woody (shrubs and trees) and herbaceous. The dominant trees are quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*). The dominant shrubs are geyer, bebb, booth, and coyote willows

(*Salix geyeriana*, *bebbiana*, *boothii*, and *exigua*); water birch (*Betula occidentalis*); mountain alder (*Alnus incana*); red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*); woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*); chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*); gooseberry and currant (*Ribes sp.*). The dominant herbaceous species ("slough grasses") are Nebraska and beaked sedge (*Carex nebrascensis and rostrata*) and baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*). Degraded riparian areas are dominated by introduced species, such as Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa palustris*), clover (*Trifolium sp.*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

The aquatic and riparian vegetation habitats administered by the BLM in the Salmon River, Lemhi River, and Birch Creek sub-basins are mostly in good condition. The proper functioning condition rating for the Salmon Field Office area is summarized in the following table:

	Proper Functioning Condition	Functional-at-risk			Non- Functional	Total
		Trend Upward	Trend not Apparent	Trend Downward		
miles of BLM	162.2	47.4	78.9	0.6	12.1	301.2
percent of BLM	53.8	15.7	26.2	0	4.0	99.7*

*Percentages do not total to 100% due to rounding.

Streams in the Salmon River sub-basin are typically steep gradient channels covered with shrubby vegetation. The Lemhi River sub-basin's streams have similar characteristics, but about half of the channels are lower gradient and are occupied by a cottonwood/willow community type rather than a conifer community type.

Although the Birch Creek sub-basin is similar to the Lemhi sub-basin in regards to the riparian vegetation species present, an unusual hydrology and chemistry in Birch Creek creates a rare habitat restricted to a few places in Idaho. The alkali primrose (*Primula alcalina*) only occurs in these wetlands in Idaho at seven sites, and no other known location in the world. The wetlands at Birch Creek also provide habitat for eleven other rare plants known or suspected to occur there (Elzinga 1999).

Upland wetland areas occur throughout the Field Office area; these areas are vegetated with riparian/wetland plant communities. Some upland wetland areas have been affected by livestock use, while others are in a natural condition and provide unique habitat for wildlife species. Upland wetland areas in the Salmon Field Office area are not specifically evaluated for functioning condition.

Water Quality

Water quality of the Salmon River, Lemhi River, and tributary streams varies with the time of year and the extent of human influence. In general, water quality is good across the Field Office area. A few streams have some reaches affected by slightly higher than desirable nutrient and sediment levels from grazing, mining, forestry, and recreation impacts. All pollutants are from non-point sources; that is, no one single location or activity on BLM or non-BLM lands can be identified as the source. Non-point sources of pollutants within the Lemhi, Salmon, and Birch Creek sub-basins include surface mining, mine tailings, streambank modification/destabilization, timber harvesting, irrigated crop production, rangeland (livestock grazing) use, streamflow regulation/modification, highway/road/bridge construction,

and pastureland use. Generally, sedimentation from non-point sources such as irrigated crop production, rangeland and pastureland use, streambank modification, and roads is the primary pollutant of concern, although nutrients from pasturelands and croplands are also of concern (IDHW - DEQ, 1999). Cold water biota and salmonid spawning in many tributaries are potentially at risk. Recreation activities that occur in and around water are also potentially at risk.

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states are required to identify and prioritize water bodies that do not meet state water quality standards for beneficial uses. In 1996, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) published a list ("303(d) list") of water quality impaired stream reaches in the State of Idaho. In December 1999, the Lemhi River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Allocation was published by DEQ, which included nine stream segments from the 1996 303(d) list, plus the Lemhi River. These streams were determined to either not fully support beneficial uses or to require more data to make a determination. Of these listed segments, only five listed stream segments in the Lemhi River sub-basin cross public land: Hawley, McDevitt, Bohannon, Wimpey, and Eighteenmile creeks. Streams that are listed in the TMDL as water quality limited are considered to have only their aquatic life use classifications impaired (cold water biota and salmonid spawning). Other beneficial uses (recreation, water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics) are not listed as impaired. In January 2000, DEQ finalized their 1998 303(d) list, which included eight streams listed for temperature and two new streams listed for sediment.

The portion of the Salmon River that flows through public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office is on the 303(d) list, as well as Carmen Creek. However, in May 2000, DEQ published the Middle Salmon River - Panther Creek Sub-basin Assessment which recommended removing both these reaches from the 303(d) list.

FOREST RESOURCES

The Lemhi RMP area contains 65,685 acres of forest land, based on the most recent (1978) Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC) inventory. Of this, 35,789 acres were identified as *commercial forest land*; commercial forest land typically provides sawtimber and this land base is used to determine the annual allowable cut. The Field Office area also contains 29,896 acres of forest land with non-commercial tree species and commercial tree species that produce less than 20 cubic feet/acre/year. These acres are not included in the commercial forest land base, but are available for the production of other woodland products, like firewood.

The dominant tree species are Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine. Ponderosa pine is found in scattered stands in the northeast portion of the Field Office area.

Forests in the planning area exhibit similar characteristics to those of the central Idaho mountains and the larger Columbia River Basin. These include a reduction of large diameter, open, dry forest stand conditions (Douglas-fir dominated); a significant increase in multi-layered forest structure; a significant decrease in non-lethal (to the overstory) fires to most of the forest ecosystems (not only limited to Douglas-fir); an increase in the number of trees per acre; and an increased risk of unnaturally large fires or insect/disease epidemics. Although risks are indicated, the planning area has experienced few of these large scale fires or epidemics, unlike much of the larger Columbia River Basin.

Forest Vegetation Types and Communities: Forest lands in the planning area can be grouped into four distinct vegetation groups: Douglas-fir, subalpine fir-lodgepole pine, aspen/riparian, and whitebark pine. Although there is some species mix over group lines, in general, each group is named based on the potential dominant tree species.

Douglas-fir: The majority of forest land in the planning area is dominated by Douglas-fir (*Psuedotsuga menziesii*) forests. Ages of overstory Douglas-fir range from 100 to 400 years, and average approximately 200 years. In much of the planning area, understories of Douglas-fir stands are dominated by regenerating seedling and sapling size trees (also Douglas-fir), with shrubs/forbs and grasses underneath. Increment borings gathered in sample Douglas-fir stands in the planning area demonstrate a reduction in diameter growth since settlement. Mixed with the Douglas-fir stands are inclusions of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), and limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*). The lack of mature subalpine fir stands in this type indicates that fire played a recurring role in the maintenance of these forests (subalpine fir is very intolerant of fire, due to thin bark, bark resin blisters, and low, flammable branches). Regular fire also used to decrease regenerating Douglas-fir as it did subalpine fir and for the same reasons. However, much of the seral species inclusions in the Douglas-fir type are gone or reducing in vigor as the Douglas-fir colonizes.

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), an important element in the Interior Columbia Basin dry forests, occurs rarely in the planning area -- only in the northernmost areas of the Kirtley, Geertson, and Bohannon watersheds. In these watersheds, the distribution of ponderosa pine is extremely sporadic among otherwise pure Douglas-fir stands. Regeneration of ponderosa pine in the planning area is nearly non-existent.

Subalpine fir-lodgepole pine: Increases in elevation usually are accompanied by a shift to lodgepole pine dominated stands. Where fires occurred, lodgepole colonized in dense stands, often uninterrupted by other species where the combined factors of available seed, freedom from competition, and soil disturbance coincided. Unlike lodgepole, subalpine fir colonizes well in a shaded understory with no soil disturbance. As a result, older (greater than 120 years) lodgepole pine stands are generally under conversion to subalpine fir. Most of this older forest where subalpine fir becomes dominant occurs in higher elevations where moisture increases, probably preventing fires from regularly moving into these forests from the fire-dependent Douglas-fir forest.

In the upper reaches of the subalpine fir-lodgepole forest, whitebark pine is often common, and indications are that it was dominant and since has succumbed to subalpine fir colonization.

Aspen/riparian: These forests include quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*). These species occupy sites where surface or subsurface water occurs. In areas of subsurface water or north aspects, aspen is a common seral species, particularly in association with Douglas-fir. Engelmann spruce also dominates some areas around riparian zones, often in association with subalpine fir. Both of these species will occur sporadically throughout higher elevation Douglas-fir stands, and their infrequent occurrence at lower elevations usually suggests the presence of subsurface moisture.

Whitebark pine: The remainder of forest land area is comprised of whitebark pine, dominant in high elevations throughout the planning area at or near the upper limits of forest vegetation. These forest stands often occupy ridgetops, often without other species. Thin soils and the concurrent lack of understory vegetation are the norm. Regeneration occurs sporadically, with the very rocky soils making for poor success.

Productivity/Harvesting: In general, habitat types in the planning area are of low to moderate site productivity due to moisture limitations. These moisture limitations dictate that management must be implemented conservatively to maintain all components of the forest ecosystem. The highest productivity sites occur in Douglas-fir forests that contain occasional ponderosa pine, found in the northernmost watersheds of the planning area. Lowest productivity sites are also located in Douglas-fir forests, usually at the edge of sagebrush, and become more prevalent at the foot of the upper (southernmost) watersheds in the planning area.

Forest management activities occur regularly within the Salmon Field Office area, although the project size is limited due to the small acreage of commercial forest land. In addition, soil, moisture, or location problems create management difficulties and often limit project size. Until the late 1980s, most management activities were reactive to poor stand conditions, and there was limited concern for forest health. Currently, management is more proactive and directed toward prevention of poor future conditions.

Most of the timber harvest in the planning area has occurred in Douglas-fir habitat types. Some 15 to 25 percent of the total area has been harvested, although this figure is difficult to accurately ascertain due to the unrecorded harvesting that occurred throughout the planning area prior to agency management. Of the harvested acres, only about 10 percent were clearcuts or nearly complete overstory removals.

Role of Fire/Disturbance: An intensive forest inventory was conducted in 1996-1997 by Salmon - BLM staff on 8,000 acres along the Continental Divide. This inventory evaluated disturbance history and provided detailed information about fire history. In forests with a greater than 60 percent composition of Douglas-fir, an estimated (based on sample plots) 95 percent were subjected to fire within the last 200 years. Most of these fires were non-lethal to the overstory. Little to no history of recent fire (within the last 50 years) was detected, although the age of fire scars (on dead trees) and ashes can be difficult to determine.

Currently, no epidemic outbreaks of insect or disease disturbances are occurring in the planning area. However, forest stand conditions in much of the planning area are ripe for epidemic outbreaks due to reduction of vigor and the presence of more trees than existed at historical levels. In addition, extensive stand replacing fire (entire watersheds of forest land could burn) is a risk due to current disease infections (mistletoe), potential insect/disease outbreaks, increased fuel loading, and increased ladder fuels. One current disease problem with a high potential for large scale stand alteration in whitebark pine is white pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*). This exotic has wiped out much of the white pine in northern Idaho and Montana, and is currently moving down the Continental Divide, affecting whitebark pine. Whitebark pine stands in the northern part of the planning area are currently infected.

Fire appears to have been nearly as influential in molding the ecology of the planning area as climate prior to the early 1900s. The combination of natural ignitions and a presumed nearly continuous bed of fine fuels from the bottomlands up into the coniferous forests promoted a high frequency of fire. It is highly probable that during this pre-settlement period, one or more fires were burning somewhere in the

planning area throughout every summer and fall. Most of these fires occurred in the sagebrush habitat type and the warmer, drier, coniferous forest areas. This frequent (15 to 41 years) burning resulted in comparatively light fuel loads and fires of low to moderate severity (Arno 1976, Crane and Fischer 1986, Thomas 1994). These non-lethal (to most of the overstory) fires burned large acreage and reduced or eliminated understory fuels (included small trees). These understory fuels could allow the fire to move into the forest overstory, thereby increasing the risk of large scale lethal crown fires. The higher elevation, more moist forests tended to have longer fire frequencies (25 to 300 years), and fire severity was more variable, tending toward more lethal fires.

This inferred fire frequency resulted in a landscape which was much more open and diverse than at present (Arno 1976, Harbeck 1967). Forested ecosystems likely had an aspect of open grass and brush fields and timber stands which varied in age, density, understory and species. Nutrient cycling was much more active (Harbeck 1967, Neuenschwander 1995) and timber stands susceptible to disease and insect attack were smaller and dispersed (Martin 1988).

By the early 1900s livestock grazing had modified fuel loadings and fire suppression was rapidly becoming more aggressive and effective (Wright and Bailey 1982). Grazing significantly reduced - sometimes eliminated - fine fuels needed for fire spread. Fire could no longer carry in the sagebrush type and the fuel pathway linking the bottomlands with the timbered country had been broken.

Although there are exceptions throughout the planning area, many areas reflect the effects of fire exclusion. The structure of woody vegetation, be it shrub or timber, is much more uniform and older-aged over much larger areas than at any time in the historic past. Likewise, fuel loadings have become much heavier and more uniform. Ladder fuels, which carry the fire from surface to crown fuels, are abundant in sizable areas of the forest. The combination of these factors raises the specter of large stand-replacing wildfires which have the very real potential for severe impacts on soils and vegetation recovery (Arno 1976, Crane and Fischer 1986, Thomas 1994). Thomas (1994) concluded that most of the West's forest health problems appear to be clearly related to the disruption of historic fire cycles and timber harvest practices of the period 1900-1990.

Two fire occurrence assessments, completed for the Hawley Creek and Hayden Creek watersheds in the Lemhi River drainage, demonstrate the extent of fire exclusion in at least this portion of the Salmon Field Office area. These assessments were based on fire occurrence records dating back to 1919 and professional estimates of the natural mean fire intervals (MFI - mean years between re-occurring fires) for habitat types in the assessment area. The natural MFI for frequent fire regimes in the assessment area ranges from 25 to 40 years, while the natural MFI for infrequent fire regimes is approximately 300 years. Both assessments indicate that fire, especially non-lethal ground fire, has been excluded from the assessment area for many years. A summary of the assessment results is as follows:

Hawley Creek: A total of 1,000 acres burned between 1919 and 1996 (a 77 year period). This acreage represents less than 2% of the area that would have burned under natural conditions in an average 77 year period with a MFI of 25 years. The 1,000 acres burned since 1919 represents less than 12% of the area that would have burned under natural conditions in an average 77 year period with a MFI of 300 years.

Hayden Creek: A total of 720 acres burned between 1919 and 1996 (77 year period). This represents less than 1% of the area that would have burned under natural conditions in an average 77 year period with a MFI of 40 years. The 720 acres burned since 1919 represents less

than 3% of the area that would have burned under natural conditions in an average 77 year period with a MFI of 300 years.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Geologic Setting

The Salmon Field Office area lies within the Northern Rocky Mountain physiographic province and is generally characterized by broad valleys and steep-sided narrow mountain ranges. Igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks are all found within the area. The valley floors are generally covered with an unmeasured thickness of Cenozoic sediments. These are underlain by Paleozoic sediments or Tertiary volcanics. Beneath these are thought to be Precambrian quartzites.

The mountain ranges generally have Paleozoic sediments along their flanks and a core of Precambrian rocks (predominantly quartzite) exposed along their crests. The structural trend is northwest to southeast as evidenced by the orientation of the range crests and valley floors. Major faults follow the range fronts and, occasionally, the crests. Secondary faulting (traverse faults) frequently occurs at right angles to the dominant trend. Thrust faulting is in evidence, especially south of the community of Lemhi, Idaho, and this faulting follows a general northwest-southeast structural pattern. Many areas within the Beaverhead and Lemhi mountain ranges are intensely deformed by combinations of folding and faulting.

Hydrothermal fluids have used many of the fault planes as conduits, depositing minerals of economic importance. Several tertiary intrusions occur within the area. Alpine glaciation has scoured much of the crestline of both the Lemhi and Beaverhead mountain ranges.

Energy and Mineral Exploration

Exploration for locatable minerals was one of the primary reasons for the arrival of settlers in the area. Most mining occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s, with several large gold dredge mining operations underway at that time in Kirtley, Geertson, and Bohannon creeks. At the present time, there is no major production from the area, but several small mines are still operational. There are approximately 500 known mineral occurrences within the planning area representing 30 minerals of economic importance. The minerals which have been economically mined in the past include gold, silver, lead, copper, nickel, and gypsum. Recent exploration work has centered on thorium and gold. There are very few lode claims, mill site claims, or placer claims located on public lands.

Much of the planning area was historically leased for oil and gas; however, there are no active leases in the area at this time. Only two wildcat wells have been drilled in the area, both of which were plugged and abandoned after reaching their targets. A few warm springs suggest geothermal resources, but have only recreational value at the present time.

The primary salable minerals that are of importance include shale (Challis volcanics), large rock for rip-rap or streambank stabilization, and gravel. Shale is widely used as undifferentiated fill and as a road surfacing material. Bentonite (clay) is common near the town of Salmon and at a few scattered locations near Leadore. It is primarily used to line or seal ditches and reservoirs. These mineral materials are sold at designated "Community Pits" where other agencies are also authorized to remove material under Free Use Permits.

Approximately 450,715 acres of public land within the planning area are open for the location of mining claims and managed under the surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809). The Lemhi RMP recommended about 18,821 acres for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry to protect recreation sites, areas with cultural values, and the portion of the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area that was recommended suitable for wilderness designation. An additional 540 acres are open to location, but subject to superior rights established by designated community pits and mineral material sites.

RANGELAND VEGETATION TYPES/COMMUNITIES; RANGELAND RESOURCES; RANGELAND CONDITION; INVASIVE/NON-NATIVE SPECIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED PLANTS; RARE/SENSITIVE PLANTS

Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities: Two obvious types of vegetation can be seen when looking up the Lemhi River valley. The foothills and the lower half of the mountains are dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*). The higher elevations of the mountains are forested with mainly Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), and some Englemann spruce (*Picea englemanii*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) (see Forest Resources affected environment). These basic vegetation communities vary with elevation, aspect, and soil type. On north slopes, the forest reaches to lower elevations than on south slopes. At higher elevations, Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) increases as bluebunch wheatgrass decreases, and mountain big sage (*A. t. vaseyana*) replaces Wyoming big sage (*A. t. wyomingensis*). Three-tip sage (*Artemisia tripartita*) occurs on cooler wetter sites, such as north aspects and higher elevations. Low sage (*Artemisia arbuscula*) occurs on shallow rocky soils. Alkaline sites in the foothills support shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). (*Note:* Please see the Forest Resources affected environment for a discussion of forest vegetation types and communities, and the "Wetland/Riparian Zones" section of the Fisheries affected environment for a discussion of riparian vegetation types and communities.)

Rangeland Resources: Most of the public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office are dry grazing lands that are generally marginal for agricultural development. However, these rangeland resources support a variety of other natural resources, such as wildlife habitat, soils/watershed protection, and habitat for rare/sensitive plants, as well as human uses such as recreation and livestock grazing. The majority of the Field Office area is allocated for livestock grazing (currently 63,887 AUMs active preference, though actual use is much less). Livestock use the public lands for forage primarily from May to September.

Approximately 40,000 acres of public lands south of Salmon were once part of the Challis Resource Area - BLM, but were incorporated into the Salmon Field Office area in 1986 (see Map 1). Allotments on those 40,000 acres include the following:

<u>Allotment Name</u>	<u>Acres of Public Land</u>	<u>Active Preference (AUMs)</u>
Camp Creek	3,141	201
Second Creek	2,464	152
Fenced Pasture	7	24
Lime Creek	2,380	112
Iron Creek	10,869	1,405
Poison Creek	4,740	367
Cabin Creek	16,308	618
Findley Basin	<u>597</u>	<u>44</u>
Totals	40,506	2,923

Rangeland Condition: Most of the rangeland in the Field Office area is in good condition. Range condition generally correlates with slope: the gentler hills and flats near the valley bottom tend to be in fair condition, and the steeper hills and higher elevations tend to be in good condition. These condition ratings are based on the kind and proportion of native plant species that could grow on a site versus what vegetation is actually there. Many of the range sites should support vigorous bluebunch wheatgrass, 15 to 20 percent canopy cover of sagebrush, and a variety of forbs (broadleafed plants, wildflowers). Often the fair sites are rated as such because they lack an adequate component of bluebunch wheatgrass, a key indicator species. In certain areas, lack of fire has allowed brush densities to increase. Increased brush densities tend to lower rangeland condition ratings by decreasing the amount of grass. In locations where it occurs, healthy rangeland condition enhances the natural character of the landscape and the associated recreational and visual resources of the Salmon Field Office area.

One component of upland vegetation and health that is only now beginning to be understood is the biotic soil crust. This crust is composed of mosses, lichens, and algae that form a protective covering for the soil between the larger plants. It functions as a living mulch for desert soils, helping to catch and retain moisture and prevent overland runoff. In addition, some of the species act as nitrogen fixers, and may add significant amounts of that critical nutrient to the soils. These crusts develop to the greatest degree on fine-textured soils, and to the least degree on rocky soils. From general observations, the condition of the biotic crust in the Lemhi River sub-basin correlates with general range condition; biotic soil crust integrity on sites rated as fair condition is generally reduced by livestock trampling and off-highway vehicle use impacts.

Invasive, Non-native Species: Noxious weed species are non-native, invasive plant species that can germinate under a wide variety of conditions, establish quickly, exhibit fast seedling growth, and out-compete native species for water and nutrients. They can ultimately take over native rangeland and forest habitat and reduce productivity and biological diversity. The most serious threats in the planning area are from spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) and leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), both of which are established in Lemhi County, and are capable of invading all of the rangelands. However, most of the Salmon Field Office area is not yet dominated by these weeds, so the BLM, in cooperation with other agencies and private landowners, still has the chance to maintain the native vegetation. Other weeds present in the planning area in smaller numbers include Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), whitetop (*Cardaria draba*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*). Also present are other non-native invasive species such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), which has not yet been designated as “noxious” in Idaho.

Many weed species are “colonizer” species, which means they can readily colonize areas that have been previously disturbed or lack plant cover. Noxious weeds often produce numerous seeds which can be

transported long distances by wind, wildlife, humans, and water. Species such as leafy spurge reproduce by rhizomes as well as seeds. Both natural and prescribed fires may enhance the spread of certain weed species by removing native vegetation, which allows weed seeds to germinate easily.

Various types of land uses and activities which occur in the Field Office area can introduce new invasive species and contribute to weed spread. For example, vehicles, humans, and animals, including cattle, horses, and wildlife, can disperse weed seeds. Concentrated cattle use around watering troughs and in riparian areas can cause soil disturbance and remove native plant cover, thus creating a seed bed for weeds to establish and spread. Road-building, logging, and mining and fire suppression activities also cause soil disturbance which often results in weed invasion, unless mitigation occurs.

Noxious weed control on BLM lands in the Salmon Field Office area is guided by national policy. In May of 1991, an environmental impact statement titled *Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in the Thirteen Western States*, identified vegetation control methods that would be conducted on BLM lands. The selected alternative from the impact statement was intended to give the BLM "the greatest flexibility in specifying site treatments using the most effective and economical method available." The methods available for use include manual, mechanical, biological (including insects, pathogens, and grazing), prescribed burning, and the use of 17 herbicides. The Salmon Field Office is using a combination of methods, including herbicide application (mainly a mix of Tordon and 2,4-D), biological control (for spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and musk thistle), and manual digging (for small isolated populations). Herbicide is applied by backpack pump, all-terrain vehicles, and spray-equipped vehicles. Targets for herbicide application are the major pathways of spread (such as road corridors, trailheads, and campgrounds) and new infestations. In 1999, over 175 releases of insects to control leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and Canada thistle were made, with each release consisting of 100 to 1,000 insects.

The Salmon Field Office is an active member of the Lemhi County Coordinated Weed Management Area, which includes private, county, state, and federal partners. This group has devised a county-wide plan for combating noxious weeds. The highest priorities in Lemhi County are to keep weed-free areas weed-free, prevent the establishment of new species of weeds, and contain the existing populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. The northern portion of the Salmon Field Office area has been designated a special weed management zone, due to leafy spurge populations. The Birch Creek portion of the Field Office area (southeast portion) is considered a weed-free area, with only small populations of noxious weeds present.

Threatened/Endangered Plants: No habitat for or populations of Federally listed threatened or endangered plant species occur in the planning area, based on previous surveys and expert knowledge (Ulmschneider, 2000, pers. comm.). The Ute ladies' tresses is an orchid found in Idaho that is Federally listed as threatened. However, this plant was not found in the Salmon Field Office area during recent studies and inventories (Mancuso 1997; Mosley 1998; Elzinga, November 1999; USDI - BLM 1998-2000). Currently, the Ute ladies' tresses is not considered to occur in the Salmon Field Office area.

Rare/Sensitive Plants: Since the arrival of European settlers, native plant communities have been affected by activities such as agriculture, grazing, mining, logging, road building, and fire suppression. In particular, these activities have affected grasslands and riparian areas, contributing to the rarity of many plant species. In addition, the introduction and spread of invasive exotic plant species, including noxious weeds, have further reduced habitat for native plant species. Native vegetation often cannot compete successfully with invasive exotics in certain habitats, such as dry grasslands and riparian areas.

With the increase of exotics comes increased herbicide use, which can also be a threat to certain native species. Ground disturbance, canopy opening, and over-grazing can alter native habitat and change plant community composition, structure, and function. Fire exclusion has also changed native species composition, in part by reducing habitat for early seral species which depend on disturbance to provide bare mineral soil for establishment.

The BLM manages populations and habitats of certain rare plant species designated as "sensitive" to ensure their protection from adverse management actions, as directed by the 6480 Manual. The following BLM- designated sensitive species that are known or suspected to occur in the Salmon Field Office area were presented in BLM Information Bulletin No. ID-97-200, dated June 16, 1997:

Agoseris lackschewitzii (pink agoseris)
Astragalus diversifolius (meadow milkvetch)
Astragalus gilviflorus (plains milkvetch)
Astragalus leptaleus (Mulford's milkvetch)
Bouteloua gracilis (blue gramma)
Carex buxbaumii (Buxbaum's sedge)
Carex livida (pale sedge)
Cymopterus ibapensis (Ibapah wavewing)
Lomatogonium rotatum (marsh felwort)
Penstemon lemhiensis (Lemhi penstemon)
Phlox kelseyi kelseyi (Kelsey's phlox)
Physaria didymocarpa var. *lyrata* (Salmon twin bladderpod)
Primula alcalina (alkaline primrose)
Salix candida (hoary willow)
Salix pseudomonticola (false mountain willow)
Xanthoparmelia idahoensis (Idaho range lichen)

The habitats for these species are varied, including open grasslands, sagebrush flats, gravel slopes, wet meadows, and subalpine meadows. Several, including Salmon twin bladderpod, alkaline primrose, and Idaho range lichen, are found only in the Salmon Field Office area and at no other known locations. In addition to the alkaline primrose, six of the above sensitive species are found in the unique alkaline meadows in the Birch Creek sub-basin (Elzinga 1999). These populations have been mapped in connection with an on-going monitoring project to detect plant community response to no further livestock grazing. Preliminary monitoring results and observations can be found in the *Birch Creek Monitoring Report* (Elzinga 1999).

Many other rare plant species occur in the Field Office area which have special status as recognized by the State of Idaho, but have no official BLM designation at this time. These include five more rare species in the Birch Creek sub-basin: *Carex parryana*, *Kobresia simpliciuscula*, *Rhynanthus crista-galli*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, and *Scirpus rolandii* (Elzinga 1999).

RECREATION USE; WILDERNESS; OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE AND MANAGEMENT

Recreation Use

Overview of Recreation Resources and Activities: Recreation use within the Salmon Field Office area is both diverse and gradually growing in popularity. What was once a secluded and nearly-forgotten area is now being discovered by visitors who seek experiences away from the crowded conditions at neighboring areas. Public land recreationists participate in a wide variety of activities including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, tubing, motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, sledding, horseback riding, model airplane flying, para-sailing, wildlife watching, driving for pleasure, antler hunting, and cross country skiing.

Recreation Use of the Main Salmon River: The Salmon Field Office manages a portion of the upper Salmon River that lies downstream of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Challis Field Office - BLM area, and upstream of the Recreational Wild and Scenic River section managed by the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Salmon River and associated public lands received an extensive amount of use in the 1950s and early 1960s by anglers fishing for chinook salmon and steelhead trout. After construction was completed on the lower Snake River dams, anadromous fish runs plummeted, as did the seasonal angling pressure. Following increases in steelhead runs and interest in other river-related activities, use levels for river-related recreation have steadily increased during the past 20 years. The Salmon Field Office currently permits eight commercial outfitters on the Main Salmon River. Six of these outfitter permits are for float boating and fishing, one is for power boating only, and one outfitter is authorized for both float and power boating.

Extensive and Special Recreation Management Areas: The Salmon Field Office Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) (approximately 93 percent of the Field Office area) includes all public lands that are not in a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Although the ERMA is managed for dispersed recreation use and minimal recreation development, the ERMA has five developed recreation sites: the Williams Lake, Agency Creek, McFarland, and Smokey Cubs Recreation Sites/Campgrounds, and Geertson Creek Cabin.

The Salmon Field Office manages 18,860 acres of public land in the Upper Salmon River SRMA. This SRMA contains six developed recreation sites: the Kilpatrick, Elevenmile, and Eightmile river access sites, and Shoup Bridge, Morgan Bar, and Tower Rock Recreation Sites/Campgrounds. Public lands along three National Trails systems have also been designated as Special Recreation Management Areas: The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (4,600 acres), the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (9,080 acres), and the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. The BLM administers 13 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from just south of Lemhi Pass to Goat Mountain, and has designated 4,600 acres as an SRMA. Seventy-five acres of commercial forest land are set aside from the timber production base and restricted management is prescribed within an eight-mile corridor including, and adjacent to, the Continental Divide Trail. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail crosses public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office in the Leadore, Gilmore, and Birch Creek areas. No special recreation management plan has been written for the Nez Perce Trail SRMA to date.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Recreation Resources in Proximity to the Trail: Recently, there has been increasing interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and associated National Historic Trail. The Bicentennial Commemoration of the Expedition will begin in 2003 and wrap up in 2006, but visitation to segments of the Lewis and Clark Trail that pass through the Salmon Field Office area has

already begun to grow. With this growth comes the need for management actions to deal with visitation to areas that have little or no developed facilities because they were (previously) only visited on an occasional basis by local ranchers, miners, loggers, and hunters.

The Lemhi RMP designated 9,080 acres as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in order to highlight the area for special recreation and cultural resource management. The SRMA boundary was intended to encompass a corridor wide enough to retain the natural aspects of the historic trail route. After further research, it has become apparent that some portions of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's route were mapped incorrectly at the time the Lemhi RMP was written. The SRMA, which matched those sections of the trail, does not always coincide with the currently accepted location of the Trail. Approximately 16 miles of the Lewis and Clark Trail cross public lands managed by Salmon Field Office area. However, the exact location of the Indian roads utilized by the Expedition are still a matter of research and speculation.

Along one boundary of the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, the Salmon Field Office manages the Lewis and Clark Backcountry Byway and Adventure Road in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The Byway/Adventure Road is a 39-mile interpretive loop that highlights the historical values of the area and points out multiple-use management as it takes visitors from the Lemhi River to the Continental Divide and Lemhi Pass. Visitor use of the area is estimated to have grown ten-fold in the past three years.

Wilderness

The Salmon Field Office manages the 24,922-acre Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to protect its wilderness characteristics (in accordance with the BLM's Interim Management Policy). The Eighteenmile WSA is located along the Beaverhead Mountains south of Leadore, Idaho, and straddles both the Lemhi and Birch Creek valleys. Authorized uses in the WSA include livestock grazing and off-highway vehicle travel on roads and trails that were documented during the initial wilderness inventory in the late 1970s. During the past ten years, travel management within the WSA has become very difficult due to the lack of signing, enforcement, the public's ignorance of the area's special restrictions, and increasing use (especially during big game hunting seasons). A private/patented gypsum mine is located adjacent to the WSA in the Clear Creek drainage. The 14,796-acre southern portion of the WSA adjoins the Forest Service Italian Peaks Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II area and has been recommended to Congress as suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 10,126 acres in the northern end of the WSA were not recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The northern portion of the WSA has existing mineral development activities adjacent to it. It is expected that further mineral development activities within the WSA boundaries may be proposed in the future.

Off-highway Vehicle Use and Management

There has been a marked increase in the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the Field Office area. This use is often related to hunting, antler gathering, routine grazing management, and sight-seeing. The Field Office area contains many unimproved roads and vehicle ways. ATVs offer an easy and efficient mode of travel that allows more people to access remote areas. The Lemhi RMP designated 428,540 acres open (93%), 16,230 acres limited (6%) and 14,796 acres (3.5%) closed to motorized vehicle use. An RMP amendment (December 1987) closed the Trail Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (236 acres) to off-road vehicle use year round and limited off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Sevenmile ACEC (1,060 acres) to authorized vehicles only.

SOILS

Because of a broad range in elevation, rainfall, and temperature, the Salmon Field Office area has many diverse and complex soil patterns. Each soil series in the area was formed as result of different dominating forces. These forces are reflected in soil properties such as texture, drainage, degree of development, permeability, and infiltration rate. Soil properties and slope, in turn, affect erodibility and soil productivity.

Three major soil parameters are affected by various land uses: compaction, erosion, and productivity. Some soils in the planning area have already been affected by past use. Various activities and practices, in some areas, have affected soil density and decreased pore space, thereby increasing soil compaction and decreasing infiltration rates. Decreased infiltration rates result in increased runoff, which increases the potential for soil erosion. Soil erosion affects the area being eroded as well as the waters receiving the eroded material. Erosion of the nutrient-rich topsoil, where most of the organic material is found, reduces site fertility. Sediment, the by-product of erosion, adversely affects water quality and fish habitat and fills reservoirs.

Numerous areas currently have some severe accelerated erosion problems, and other areas could develop erosion problems because of potentially high-eroding soil types (high clay content). A soil survey conducted for the Salmon Field Office area by the Soil Conservation Service indicated that 50,960 acres, or 11 percent of public lands in the planning area, have soils with high present or potential erosion (BLM 1995).

TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS; INDIAN TRUST RESOURCES; NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

On September 24, 1868, Chief Tendoy of the Lemhi Shoshone, whose traditional homeland included all of the lands managed by the Salmon Field Office, signed the unratified "Treaty with Shoshones, Bannacks, and Sheepeaters," which included terms for a small, rectangular reservation within the central portion of the Lemhi Valley (Article III). The Lemhi Indian Reservation was finally established by Presidential Order from President Ulysses S. Grant in February, 1875. Despite several attempts by the federal government to close the reservation and remove its residents to Fort Hall, Idaho (especially after 1880), between 400 and 700 Shoshone and Bannock people resided there and participated in the economy of the region until 1907. At that time, a signed treaty finally resulted in forced removal of the Lemhi people to Fort Hall, with loss of virtually all of their lands and holdings. Chief Tendoy stayed behind, and died shortly thereafter. His burial place later became known as the Chief Tendoy Cemetery – a very important traditional cultural property now managed by the Salmon Field Office in close coordination with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Under the "Treaty of Fort Bridger," ratified in 1869, all members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes retain rights to hunt, fish, and gather natural resources on unoccupied lands of the United States outside the boundaries of their reservation, which would include the public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office. At present, the Tribes do not depend upon commodity resources from the Salmon Field Office area for their economic livelihood. However, the Salmon Field Office area includes many sensitive places and natural resource values of importance in the traditions, subsistence, and culture of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, especially to modern-day descendants of the Lemhi Shoshone who reside on the Fort Hall Reservation. Various plant and animal species present within the Field Office area play an active role in the perpetuation of the Tribes' ancient pattern of life and tradition, and are regularly

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NOTES

sought by tribal members. BLM management of these and other trust resources entails a concerted effort to maintain ecological health, variability, and vigor using sound professional expertise. In addition, the BLM applies management to preserve and protect certain localities within the Field Office area from intrusion or disturbance, for these sacred places are crucial to the religion and cultural memory of the Tribes.

Presently, only limited information is available to the BLM detailing the specifics of traditional resources and the exact locations of sensitive places. In order to obtain this information and help ensure that tribal concerns are addressed, the BLM and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes engage in government-to-government consultation and coordination in accordance with federal law and policy. Federal legislation such as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites of May 24, 1996), etc. help to ensure access, use, and protection of traditional cultural properties, religious sites, burial areas, and sacred objects identified on the public lands.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Visual Resource Management is a management tool used by the BLM to manage the visual qualities of the landscape. It is a system of inventory and classification of areas based upon visual values, then management of those visual values by establishing objectives and taking management actions to achieve those objectives. The goal is to minimize the visual impacts of all surface disturbing activities on the landscape. By using various design techniques the visual impacts can often be minimized.

Visual resource management classifications for public lands managed by the Salmon Field Office are as follows: Class I, 14,796 acres; Class II, 29,280 acres; Class III, 184,205 acres; Class IV, 231,285 acres (see Glossary: visual resource management classes). Class I areas include the portion of the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Areas designated as Class II include the portions of the Eighteenmile WSA recommended non-suitable for wilderness designation, and the Upper Salmon River, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Areas.

The overall visual quality of the Salmon Field Office area is high, because of the area's spectacular landforms and the fact that there are very few visual intrusions. The few intrusions which lower the visual quality of the landscape include powerlines, gravel pits, mining exploration pits, trails created by off-highway vehicle use (especially up ridges), fence lines, and road cuts. Proposed projects are analyzed for visual impacts that could occur and, when practical, mitigation measures are developed in order to minimize those impacts.

Outstanding visual resources of the Salmon Field Office area include the following areas:

Upper Salmon River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - This SRMA contains a very rugged riverine canyon of the Main Salmon River which is generally paralleled by U.S. Highway 93. The river canyon is recognized regionally and nationally as a scenic resource. The State of Idaho recognizes the highway as a Scenic Byway, and there are also proposals to apply for recognition as a National Scenic Byway.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Area - The Salmon Field Office manages portions of the Beaverhead Mountains of the Bitterroot Range, whose crest forms the Continental Divide and the border between the states of Idaho and Montana. Visitors to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail are afforded spectacular views of the mountain ranges and valleys of Montana and Idaho.

Upper Lemhi and Upper Birch Creek Valleys - The upper portions of these two valleys form a high desert sagebrush steppe of moderate size which has very little visual intrusion to date. The area is highly sensitive to change to the landscape due to the continuous, low growing vegetation. State Highway 28 bisects the valleys, and motorists enjoy generally uninterrupted views to the mountain peaks on either side.

The demand for high quality visual experiences in the Field Office area is growing. Recreation use of the Field Office is increasing, and many visitors are drawn to the Field Office area especially for the scenery. The supply of outstanding scenery is moderate to high, especially when scenic views are combined with those on National Forest system lands.

WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Wildlife Habitat Overview: Sagebrush steppe and coniferous forest comprise the majority of wildlife habitat in the Salmon Field Office area. Limited inclusions of riparian, aspen, mountain brush (mountain mahogany, service berry, etc.) and other habitats occur within these sagebrush steppe and coniferous forest habitats. Each of these habitats is variably complex due to soils, precipitation, aspect, and elevation. The bulk of the sage steppe tends to reside on more gentle topography at lower elevations. Much of the coniferous forest habitat lies in generally rugged, deeply incised, topography at higher elevation. Cliffs and extensive talus slopes provide additional habitat complexity in this latter area.

Wildlife habitats in the Field Office area provide for a broad spectrum of wildlife species. Some species are more or less unique to a specific habitat, some are more common in the ecotones between habitats, and other species show little discrimination in habitat preference.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail courses through a number of important wildlife use areas. Between the top of Lemhi Pass and the kiosk at the lower end of the Warm Springs Wood Road, the Trail traverses a large block of critical elk winter range, moose habitat (Pattee Creek), critical deer and antelope winter range, and a small area of important sage grouse habitat. The remainder of the Trail crosses a number of other similarly important sage grouse, deer, and antelope use areas.

Public lands provide important yearlong range for elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, antelope, mountain lion, black bear, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose. Many of these species (especially elk) move freely or migrate seasonally between Montana and Idaho. Although these "high profile" species represent considerable personal and economic interest to the general public, they make up a very small fraction of the total abundance and variety of wildlife. Non-game birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates form an overwhelming portion of the wildlife makeup of the area.

Big Game: Numbers of elk have increased considerably since the mid-1980s. Overwinter populations in the Field Office area have increased from approximately 2,000 in 1987 to approximately 3,500 in 1994. There does not appear to be any great conflict with livestock grazing, but conflicts between rapidly

increasing off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and elk (as well as other big game animals) are expected. As elk populations have increased there has also been a corresponding increase in elk depredation on private land.

Although populations of deer and antelope appear to have decreased since 1987, little current population information is available. The Field Office area has three small populations of bighorn sheep: one in the Railroad Canyon area east of Leadore, one north of Salmon between Tower Creek and Kriley Gulch, and a small herd which ranges the country between Williams and Lake creeks south of Salmon. The moose population is steadily increasing, presumably as a result of riparian improvement efforts over the past half-dozen years.

Upland Game Birds: Native and non-native upland game birds, such as sage grouse, forest grouse, pheasant, chukar, and Hungarian partridge, are variably common to the area, as are ducks and geese. Sage grouse are scattered throughout the Field Office area, but are most common from about Leadore, Idaho south. Their population - as is typical throughout the west - is at a low, although there are strong indications of an upward trend. Population oscillations are normal, but the recent low ebb has been unusually protracted. There is no clear understanding for reasons behind the decline, but it is believed the prolonged drought of the mid 1980s into the early 1990s had a large impact. What is known is that sage grouse were *considerably* more abundant prior to the early 1980s when habitat conditions were much worse than at present. It appears that a petition to federally list the sage grouse as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act may be forthcoming. Introduced species of upland game birds - pheasant, chukar, and Hungarian partridge - exhibit wide population fluctuations and are currently coming out of a general low ebb. Pheasant and, to a lesser degree, Hungarian partridge, are most commonly found in association with agricultural areas and frequently winter in and around feedlots.

Threatened/Endangered Animals: Federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife species occurring in the Field Office area include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), and the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was recently removed from the threatened and endangered species list. A petition to delist the bald eagle is being reviewed. Bald eagles are common visitors from late fall through early spring, primarily along the major water courses. Wolves were reintroduced on Forest Service lands to the west of Salmon in 1994, and now make frequent use of immediately adjacent BLM land. Reports of wolf sightings elsewhere in the Field Office area have been erratic and infrequent over past years, but are expected to increase as the reintroduced wolf population expands its range. The peregrine falcon has been sighted on rare occasions, and three previously unknown eyries were located in 1999. The subject area provides marginal habitat for the recently listed lynx. There is speculation that a petition to list the wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) may be forthcoming.

Wildlife Habitat Concerns: Wildlife habitat concerns primarily stem from impacts associated with human activities, invasive weeds, and a history of fire exclusion. Of these three factors, human activities are the most immediate and are closely followed by concerns regarding the chronic spread of invasive weeds. For the most part, recreational activities and the attendant potential for disturbance or displacement of wildlife are rapidly increasing. Potential conflicts with wintering wildlife, big game spring use areas, sage grouse breeding/brood rearing ranges, etc. are of growing concern. As economics have dictated the selling of ranch lands, there has been a steady increase in housing development into important wildlife use areas. Activities normal to this development commonly influence a much larger area of wildlife habitat; for example domestic dogs are expected to be an increasing problem.

Invasive weeds have the potential to permanently (from a practical standpoint) and profoundly alter habitat quality for almost all species of wildlife. None of the invasives are of any particular value as either cover or forage (chukar/cheatgrass association is an exception) and they have the potential to significantly reduce the abundance and diversity of native vegetation upon which there is great dependency by wildlife.

Fire was one of the basic elements which created and preserved historic habitat architecture in the Field Office area. With the near exclusion of fire for upwards of 100 years, habitats - especially forested - have lost much of the structural and floristic diversity important to a wide variety of wildlife species. Although the sage steppe historically burned with some regularity, it is not entirely clear what the ramifications of fire exclusion have been. As wildfire consumes vast areas of the Snake River Plains with increasing frequency, the value of intact sage steppe habitat such as exists in the Salmon and Challis Field Office areas becomes increasingly important.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The following section describes the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed Lemhi RMP amendment (Alternative C) and three amendment alternatives (Existing Management (no action), Alternative A, and Alternative B). The analysis is presented in a comparative table, to enable the reader to identify similarities and differences among the proposed amendment and alternatives. The analysis first describes the direct and indirect impacts to the critical elements discussed in the affected environment. These resources and land uses are discussed in the same order in which they were presented in the affected environment. Where appropriate, the analysis begins with a summary of impacts, followed by a more detailed analysis of impacts that are expected from a particular component of the proposed amendment and alternatives (e.g., fire management, visual resource management). The analysis concludes with a discussion of cumulative impacts for each alternative.

Table 2: Analysis of Environmental Consequences

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
AIR QUALITY			
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Fire management objectives in the current Lemhi RMP (to manage fire for the protection and enhancement of resource values such as livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and timber; to reduce fire hazard potential on 10,000 acres; and to conduct prescribed burns for vegetation manipulation on 30,078 acres) would have to comply with the limits set by National Ambient Air Quality Standards.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Proposed fire management may have minor direct effects to air quality. These effects would usually be of short duration and only present during the burning season. These minor impacts are expected to be within the limits set by National Ambient Air Quality Standards and standards for the prevention of significant deterioration in Class II areas. Over time, implementation of prescribed fire throughout the Field Office area may reduce fuel loading and break up fuel continuity, which would have the indirect effect of lessening wildland fire severity and intensity. This would reduce the effects of wildland fire smoke emissions on air quality.</p>		
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Existing OHV use will be expected to comply with the new standard for particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM 2.5). There is currently no monitoring of OHV use for effects on air quality.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Limiting OHV use to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or to designated routes may reduce airborne particulate matter (dust) produced by OHV travel over dirt roads and sparsely vegetated areas. Dust on designated routes may increase as OHV travel is concentrated on fewer routes, but this can be addressed in annual transportation maintenance planning. The proposed restrictions will allow better compliance with the new PM 2.5 standards.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> In the northern portion of the Field Office area, dust from OHV use would be redistributed, resulting in better air quality in some areas, depending on patterns of designated OHV routes. Most adverse effects should be mitigated through transportation planning. OHV use in the southern portion of the Field Office will be expected to comply with the new standard for particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM 2.5)</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN/RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS			
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Continuing the existing OHV designations for the Sevenmile and Trail Creek ACECs would be consistent with the purposes for which those ACECs were designated. The "limited" designation for the Sevenmile ACEC (authorized vehicles only) would allow periodic entry into the area for management purposes, while protecting the health and safety of the public from the natural hazards in the area. This management would continue to enhance soil stability in the ACEC. The "closed" designation for the Trail Creek ACEC would protect the pristine values in that area.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Proposed OHV designations for the Sevenmile and Trail Creek ACECs would be consistent with the purposes for which those ACECs were designated. OHV management for the Sevenmile ACEC would change from a limited designation, authorized vehicles only, to a closed designation for the 1,060-acre area. Practically, the restrictions would continue to be the same since emergency and specifically authorized use are exceptions allowed even in closed areas, at the discretion of the authorized officer. The "closed" designation would allow periodic entry into the area for emergency or management purposes, while attempting to protect the health and safety of the public utilizing U.S. Highway 93 from the natural hazards in the area. This management would give maximum protection to the area from OHVs and would tend to enhance soil stability. Continuing the "closed" designation for the Trail Creek ACEC would protect the pristine values in that area.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Proposed OHV designations for the Sevenmile and Trail Creek ACECs would be consistent with the purposes for which those ACECs were designated. The OHV limitation for the Sevenmile ACEC would change from "authorized vehicles only" to "vehicle travel limited to designated routes." This management would still protect the most fragile areas with steep slopes and highly erosive soils, while allowing access along designated routes in more stable soils in the upper portion of the ACEC. Overall, this management would tend to enhance soil stability in the ACEC. Continuing the "closed" designation for the Trail Creek ACEC would protect the pristine values in that area.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN/RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (continued)			
<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> The VRM Class III (partial retention) designation for the Sevenmile ACEC would allow some modification of the existing character of the landscape. However, this ACEC was designated because of the natural hazards of the area, rather than because of resource values associated with visual quality. A Class III VRM designation would allow periodic management (such as use of earth-moving equipment) to address sedimentation and potential slumping hazards to human health and safety in the lower portions of the ACEC along U.S. Highway 93. The existing VRM Class IV designation for the Trail Creek ACEC and immediate area allows for major modification of the characteristic landscape. This VRM designation allows activities that may not be consistent with the intent of the ACEC designation to protect the pristine values within the ACEC.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> The visual resource impacts for the Sevenmile ACEC would be the same as described for existing management. Designating the Trail Creek ACEC as VRM Class I (preservation) would preserve the pristine qualities of the ACEC and be consistent with the values for which the ACEC was designated. Amending the VRM designations of public lands adjacent to the Trail Creek ACEC (from Class IV-Modification to Class III-Partial Retention) would also help protect the pristine setting of the Trail Creek ACEC.</p>		
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
<p>Mitigated Effects -All Alternatives (including Existing Management): Mitigation of potential impacts to cultural resource values would be considered through existing Lemhi RMP Standard Operating Procedures. Appropriate cultural resource investigations would be accomplished in advance of proposed Federal undertakings through such efforts as activity plans, environmental assessments, and so on, as directed by law and Bureau policy. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1969), as amended, requires the identification and evaluation of cultural properties potentially impacted by proposed ground disturbing actions. Though every effort is extended in locating cultural resources through the compliance process, not all cultural properties can be recognized or identified using standard field inventory techniques, and some may be missed. When such undetected resources are encountered in the course of project efforts, all work must cease pending identification and evaluation of those finds. Still, though not common, ground disturbing activities associated with existing management or the proposed amendment alternatives could have a potential adverse effect on these undetected cultural resources.</p>			

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CULTURAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Full suppression and limited prescribed fire management as outlined in the 1987 Lemhi RMP pose the potential for unnaturally severe fire activity in many areas where fire would have reduced excess fuels and where timber harvest techniques would not be feasible or profitable. Uncontrolled, severe fire behavior would likely damage or destroy cultural resources and traditional cultural values such as historic structures and constructed features, Native American rock paintings, and surface-exposed lithic remains. Indirect post-burn effects would include the possibility of extensive soil erosion and destruction or removal of historic or prehistoric features (e.g., historic roads, ditches and skid trails, house depressions) and buried archaeological remains.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Prescribed fire management would offer some protection to vulnerable cultural resources and traditionally important values by reducing the risks of unnatural accumulations of fuel and unusually intense wildfires that result in destruction or loss of cultural properties. Certain classes of cultural properties, such as historic structures or Native American pictographs, are extremely vulnerable to thermal damage and could be impacted even by prescribed fires. It is expected, however, that efforts would be undertaken in prescribed fire project planning to mitigate impacts to these and other cultural resources. Wildfire management and fire suppression efforts would seek to prevent ground disturbing or other impacts to historical and cultural resources as well, including the Lewis and Clark Trail and Nez Perce Trail.</p>		
<p><i>Lands- Retention and Disposal:</i> Land exchanges to acquire important cultural, historic, and natural resources could not occur, since public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area would be retained in federal ownership.</p>	<p><i>Lands – Retention and Disposal:</i> Disposal of the Agency Creek Recreation Site and additional public lands currently identified for retention would not impact cultural resources in that area of the Salmon Field Office, since field investigations have failed to yield important cultural properties within the proposed disposal area. Disposal of these lands through exchange would allow potential acquisition of important segments of the Lewis and Clark Trail and additional cultural and natural resources, and could provide for public management of a continuous route along this section of the Trail.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CULTURAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i> Locatable minerals withdrawal boundaries and no surface occupancy areas associated with the Lewis and Clark Trail corridor identified in 1987 were largely positioned over an incorrect Trail alignment. Minerals restrictions under existing management would not protect the currently known or probable Trail route.	<i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i> Amending the location of the proposed withdrawal and no surface occupancy stipulation reflects current historical and archaeological findings, and would serve to preserve the physical integrity and visual “sense of place” of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, as it is currently understood, by restricting ground disturbing activities in the area.		
<i>OHV Management:</i> Areas with an “open” OHV designation (about 93% of the Field Office area) would have the potential for direct impacts to fragile cultural resources through breakage or abrasion of artifacts, mixing of <i>in-situ</i> remains, and disfigurement of surface features such as historic trails or roads.	<i>OHV Management:</i> Alternative A would protect the physical condition and visual integrity of cultural properties throughout the Field Office area by nearly eliminating cross-country vehicle travel.	<i>OHV Management:</i> Alternative B affords less protection to cultural resources than Alternative A, but more than existing management. Cultural resources would be protected through OHV limitations or closures on all public lands north of the Hayden Creek/Yearian Creek drainage basins and within the Eighteenmile WSA and Birch Creek Springs area. However, public lands in the southern portion of the Field Office which are designated “open” to OHV use would continue to have the potential for impacts to cultural resources, as described under existing management impacts.	<i>OHV Management:</i> Proposed OHV limitations which apply to 99.5% of the Field Office area would protect the physical condition and visual integrity of recorded and unrecorded cultural resources subject to impacts by off-road vehicular travel.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CULTURAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Historical and archaeological research have shown that portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail alignment identified in the 1987 Lemhi RMP were incorrectly mapped. Aberrations in Trail alignments between those presented in 1987 and the currently understood route vary by as much as two miles (in the Discovery Hills Trail section). Due to this incorrect alignment, the 230-acre motorized recreation area leased to Lemhi County was not thought to lie within the area of potential impact of the Lewis and Clark Trail. The recreation lease area is now believed to incorporate a roughly 0.5-mile portion of the Trail route. Because the area rests adjacent to the former city landfill and near to the community of Salmon, portions of the lease area have received extensive surface impacts by off-road vehicles, motorcycles, mountain bikes, and many other recreational and agricultural developments (including excavation of run-off reservoirs, burial of pipelines). These activities have destroyed the physical and visual integrity of the Trail tread and any cultural resources that may once have existed there. Under current OHV management, the visual setting of the Trail area will continue to be degraded by cross-country OHV use in the Trail vicinity.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The amended SRMA designation would emphasize measures to protect the visual “sense of place” along a corrected Trail alignment, which would benefit the natural and historical integrity of historical resources, as well as cultural and historical remains within the SRMA. Including the motorized recreation area leased to Lemhi County within the SRMA boundary in its present condition would introduce a localized visual impact to the integrity of a small portion of the Discovery Hills section of the SRMA.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Alternative B also proposes retention of the natural and cultural integrity of the Lewis and Clark Trail by including almost all of the Trail’s route through public lands within the protective management of the SRMA. Excluding the 0.5-mile portion within the R&PP lease site from the SRMA would not further impact cultural or historic resources along the Trail, since previous ground disturbance has already obliterated evidence of the Trail. However, there would be a disruption in the management of the inferred Trail route through this section.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CULTURAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation (continued):</i> The existing SRMA designation leaves about 15 miles of the known or probable Trail route outside the area managed as an SRMA. This reduces the amount of emphasis (e.g, interpretation) placed on cultural and historical resources in those areas, although, by law, those resources must be protected from damage or destruction.</p>			
<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> The Lewis and Clark Trail as identified in the 1987 RMP was managed at a Class II level of visual protection (Retention). The currently accept Trail location falls under VRM Class III - Partial Retention and Class IV- Modification designations. These VRM classes permit a wider array of developments and intrusions, which would potentially pose a greater threat to the integrity of the natural setting and historic "feel" of the Trail. VRM Class III and Class IV designations for the majority of the Field Office could potentially present impacts to elements of visual integrity for cultural properties across the Field Office area.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Designating the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA (including a correct Trail alignment) as VRM Class II would help maintain that area's natural and historical integrity. Class I or II visual resource management designations for the majority of the Field Office area would heighten restrictions on visually intrusive features and ground disturbances and help preserve the visual character of the landscape. The visual character of the landscape, which contributes to the integrity of an historic setting, is an important criterion when evaluating the significance of cultural resources in terms of their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It also plays a crucial role in the preservation of traditional cultural properties.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Designating the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA (including a correct Trail alignment) as VRM Class II would help maintain that area's natural and historical integrity. Field Office wide, Alternative B would designate more public lands as VRM Class III than Alternative A, and fewer as VRM Class II. However, the absence of VRM Class IV areas would result in more stringent overall levels of visual resource protection than existing management, which would contribute positively in evaluations of integrity of historic settings of cultural or historic resources, and in the preservation of traditional cultural properties (as described in Alternative A).</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Designating the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA (including a correct Trail alignment) as VRM Class II would help maintain that area's natural and historical integrity by elevating restrictions on visually intrusive features and ground disturbances and helping preserve the visual character of the landscape. The visual character of the landscape, which contributes to the integrity of an historic setting, is an important criterion when evaluating the significance of cultural resources in terms of their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It also plays a crucial role in the preservation of traditional cultural properties.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> The current Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation does not facilitate management of intensive recreation use throughout the Trail's course on public lands. This inability to address increased visitor use will likely affect both local residents and the "tourism" sector of the local economy. Existing fire management will likely result in long term impacts to local residents and businesses in the "tourism," agriculture, and timber sectors, including increased risks of private property damage from severe fire, and reduced forest land, rangeland, and wildlife productivity.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Proposed management would preserve existing scenic qualities; maintain vehicle access throughout the majority of the Field Office area on existing roads, ways, and trails or designated routes; reduce fuel load hazards; and manage visitor use of the Lewis and Clark Trail area. Proposed management would generally benefit the "tourism" sector of the economy. Proposed OHV and VRM actions may constrain some business operations in the mining, agriculture, and timber sectors; it may be possible to mitigate some or all of these impacts through project design and/or temporary exceptions for off-road vehicle travel.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Proposed management would preserve existing scenic qualities along travel routes; maintain vehicle access throughout most of the Field Office area on existing roads, ways, and trails or designated routes and in "open" areas; reduce fuel load hazards; and manage visitor use of the Lewis and Clark Trail area. Proposed management would generally benefit the "tourism" sector of the economy, though somewhat less than Alternative A. Proposed OHV and VRM actions may constrain some business operations in the mining sector; it may be possible to mitigate some or all of these impacts through project design and/or temporary exceptions for off-road vehicle travel.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES (continued)			
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Current fire management limitations on the use of prescribed fire restrict the BLM's ability to address fuel load concerns on public lands adjacent to private lands. Existing management would likely increase the risk of private property damage from wildfire. Existing management would also affect the "tourism" sector of the economy by limiting the extent to which prescribed fire can be used to benefit recreational resources such as wildlife habitat and a natural landscape. Existing management would affect the agriculture and timber sectors of the economy by limiting the extent to which prescribed fire can be utilized to support healthy and productive rangeland and forest communities. Depending on the extent and duration of wildfire incidents during a given year, some sectors of the local economy may benefit from fire-related purchases of food and supplies, use of accommodations, etc. In years when wildfire incidents with substantial smoke emissions occur on Salmon Field Office lands, the quality of life for some local residents may be reduced temporarily; these impacts are unlikely for most residents, however, since prevailing (westerly) winds would generally direct smoke generated by fires on Salmon Field Office lands away from Salmon, Idaho.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Proposed fire management would increase the BLM's ability to use prescribed fire as a tool to address fuel load concerns, thereby reducing the risk of private property damage from natural fires occurring on public lands adjacent to private lands. Proposed management would affect the "tourism," agriculture, and timber sectors of the economy by allowing prescribed fire to be used to benefit recreational resources and the health and productivity of range and forest lands. The use or passing of fire would necessitate at least two growing seasons of complete rest from livestock grazing to allow recovery of the plant species occupying the burned sites (BLM Handbook 1742-1, Emergency Fire Rehabilitation). This requirement could have economic impacts on some individual livestock permittees, depending on the availability of temporary use AUMs in other allotments or the permittees' forage resources on private, State, or USFS lands. Over time, conditional suppression strategies may reduce the extent and duration of wildfires in the Lemhi County area, thereby reducing the fire-related purchases of food, supplies, accommodations, etc. from local businesses. Proposed fire management would also eventually reduce the occurrence of wildfire incidents with substantial smoke emissions that could temporarily affect the quality of life for some local residents.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES (continued)			
<p><i>OHV Designations:</i> Current OHV designations support the access and recreational needs of some local residents and visitors to the area. However, these designations also conflict with the recreational interests of other local residents and visitors to the area. These use conflicts are likely to persist under existing management. Existing OHV designations support the agriculture, mining, and timber sectors of the economy by providing access, and have varying impacts on businesses associated with visitors to the area (depending on whether a business depends on cross-country motorized use or non-motorized recreational experiences (where OHVs would present a visual and auditory intrusion)).</p>	<p><i>OHV Designations:</i> Designating OHV use as "limited" or "closed" throughout the Field Office area would nearly eliminate cross-country vehicular travel, thereby affecting access for some local residents and business enterprises (e.g., ranchers, miners, loggers) as well as visitors to the area, unless those persons obtained a temporary exception to the listed limitations. These changes in OHV use would likely constrain some business operations in the agriculture, mining, timber, and "tourism" sectors. However, vehicular access would still be maintained on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or designated routes throughout most of the planning area, providing for most residents' and businesses' access needs. This change in designation would also reduce use conflicts among some recreationists (for example, hunters who hunt on foot or horseback, versus those who hunt using all-terrain vehicles). The amended OHV designations would nearly eliminate local residents' and visitors' ability to pursue cross-country OHV use as a recreation interest (although cross country use could still occur within the Lemhi County motorized recreation lease area). However, OHV users who only pursue cross-country travel are estimated to be a small percentage of all OHV users; other OHV users would still be likely to visit the area to enjoy travel on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or designated routes.</p>	<p><i>OHV Designations:</i> Designating OHV use as "limited" in the northern portion of the Field Office area would nearly eliminate cross-country vehicular travel in that area, thereby affecting access for some local residents and business enterprises (e.g., ranchers, miners, loggers) as well as visitors to the area, unless those persons obtained a temporary exception to the listed limitations. These changes in OHV use would likely constrain some business operations in the agriculture, mining, timber, and "tourism" sectors. However, vehicular access on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or designated routes and in "open" designation areas would provide for most residents' and businesses' access needs. The proposed changes in OHV designation would reduce some use conflicts among recreationists, primarily in the northern portion of the Field Office. The amended OHV designations would maintain local residents' and visitors' ability to pursue cross-country OHV use as a recreation interest on approximately 209,960 acres.</p>	<p>OHV Designations: Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES (continued)			
<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Because the current designation of the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA does not correlate with the presently accepted Trail location, the use and enjoyment of this historic and cultural resource by local residents and visitors to the area would be affected, as discussed in the Cultural Resources and Recreation analyses. The BLM expects increased visitation of the public lands in Lemhi County during the Corps of Discovery bicentennial commemoration (approximately 2003 through 2006), and probably in future years as well. The current location of the SRMA would not help the BLM manage this influx of visitors throughout the Trail's course through public lands. Possible social and economic impacts include conflicts between visitors and private landowners, deterioration of the resource values that originally attracted visitors to the area, and health and safety concerns from unmanaged recreation use.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Amending the SRMA boundary and acreage to include the known Trail route and associated cultural sites would affect local residents and the "tourism" sector of the economy by providing long term management of recreation use. Managed recreation use would reduce health and public safety concerns, reduce conflicts between private land owners and visitors, and maintain the resource values that attract visitors to the area.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES (continued)			
<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Current VRM designations which allow modification of the existing visual landscape on 415,490 acres designated as VRM Class III or IV may, over time, deteriorate the scenic quality of public lands in those areas. These scenic values are one source of attraction for both local residents and visitors to the area. Loss of scenic quality may affect visitors' decisions to vacation in or move to Lemhi County. Loss of scenic quality would also affect the quality of life for local residents. Existing VRM designations in Class III and IV areas would continue to benefit the agriculture, mining, and timber sectors, since proposed projects in those areas would have less stringent guidelines for project design and would possibly be more feasible and economical to implement.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> The amended VRM designations would preserve the existing character of the landscape across the vast majority of the planning area (441,755 acres of Class I and II areas). Retaining scenic qualities would support the "tourism" sector of the economy and the quality of life for local residents. This action is unlikely to constrain business operations for the agriculture and timber sectors, since projects could still be designed to meet visual guidelines, without undue economic impact. However, VRM guidelines in Class I or II areas may constrain business operations for the mining sector to the point where some forms of mineral development may not be economically feasible.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> The amended VRM designations would preserve the existing character of the landscape across about 299,422 acres of the planning area, which is more than Existing Management, but fewer acres than Alternative A. However, the public lands designated as Class II (retention) would include the lands seen by most residents and tourists (along major travel routes). Retaining scenic qualities in these areas would support the "tourism" sector and the quality of life for local residents. Proposed VRM designations are unlikely to constrain business operations for the agriculture and timber sectors, since rangeland projects in Class II areas could still be designed to meet visual guidelines, without undue economic impact, and most forest lands would be designated as Class III (partial retention). In Class I and II areas VRM designations may constrain business operations for the mining sector to the point where some forms of mineral development may not be economically feasible.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS			
<i>Existing and Potential Land Uses</i>			
<p><i>Existing Land Uses:</i></p> <p>Existing land uses would continue, such as the 230-acre motorized use R&PP lease and other land use authorizations, authorized livestock grazing, motorized vehicle use on the majority of the Field Office area, and use of the Agency Creek Recreation Site and other designated recreation sites. Public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area (including the Agency Creek Recreation Site) would continue to be retained in public ownership; the recreation site would continue to be managed for visitors to the area, and the remaining acreage would continue to be managed for multiple use purposes.</p>	<p><i>Existing Land Uses:</i></p> <p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> The majority of existing land uses could continue. However, changes in OHV designations would nearly eliminate cross-country motor vehicle travel in the Field Office area and would close the Eighteenmile WSA to all vehicle travel. Potential disposal of 2,200 acres of public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area could affect existing public access, recreation use, and livestock grazing allocations in that area. The River Bluffs Community Pit would be closed, and would no longer be available as a mineral materials source.</p>	<p><i>Existing Land Uses:</i></p> <p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> The majority of existing land uses would continue. However, amended OHV designations would nearly eliminate cross-country OHV use in the northern portion of the Field Office area. Potential disposal of public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area could affect existing public access, recreation use, and livestock grazing allocations in that area. The River Bluffs Community Pit would be closed, and would no longer be available as a mineral materials source.</p>	<p><i>Existing Land Uses:</i></p> <p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> The majority of existing land uses could continue. However, changes in OHV designations would nearly eliminate cross-country motor vehicle travel in the Field Office area. Potential disposal of 2,200 acres of public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area could affect existing public access, recreation use, and livestock grazing allocations in that area. The River Bluffs Community Pit would be closed, and would no longer be available as a mineral materials source.</p>
	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Proposed fire management may increase the acreage burned in any given year, necessitating implementation of rehabilitation measures that may temporarily restrict existing land uses such as livestock grazing (complete rest for a minimum of two years) and hunting (wildlife habitat protection).</p>		
	<p><i>Impacts of Implementing Lemhi RMP Management for Public Lands Formerly in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Planning Unit:</i> Applying management found in the 1987 Lemhi Resource Management Plan to approximately 40,000 acres of public land located in the area formerly managed under the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan (MFP) would make management of the public lands within the Salmon Field Office area consistent for all resource programs. The impacts of applying Lemhi RMP management, including the 2,923 AUMs of active livestock grazing preference, to those 40,000 acres would be the same as the general impacts described in the Lemhi Proposed RMP/Final EIS for the rest of the planning area. The impacts of Alternatives A, B, and C on those 40,000 acres are described in the portions of this EA analysis which apply to the entire Salmon Field Office area, since those 40,000 acres are now part of the Salmon Field Office.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS (continued)			
<i>Existing and Potential Land Uses (continued)</i>			
	<p>Existing Land Uses (continued):</p> <p>Lands - Retention and Disposal: Potential disposal of approximately 2,200 acres of public land in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area may affect the following existing uses: (a) existing public access, (b) use of the Agency Creek Recreation Site, (c) general recreation use of the 2,200-acre area, and (d) grazing in the Agency Creek Allotment. The impacts of any future land exchange would be analyzed further when the exchange proposal is developed.</p> <p>(a) The 2,200 acres identified for potential disposal have minimal public access (via four-wheel-drive roads in the summer months); this public access may be eliminated if these public lands are disposed of through exchange.</p> <p>(b) The Agency Creek Recreation Site currently accommodates a limited amount of day use and overnight camping; use primarily occurs during the summer and fall. The site consists of a single vault toilet, two picnic tables, two grills and a partial perimeter fence on the north side of Agency Creek. It can accommodate approximately six vehicles at one time. Disposal of the recreation site would eliminate the only road-side stop and overnight camping area currently available in the area between Lemhi Pass and Tendoy, Idaho. Visitors who previously would stop or stay at this site would have to travel further distances to find similar or better facilities.</p> <p>(c) Recreational uses, primarily hunting, may no longer be allowed on the lands that would be transferred into private ownership. The area receives moderate hunting use, primarily for deer and elk.</p> <p>(d) This acreage is currently used for livestock grazing as part of the Squaw Creek Pasture of the Agency Creek Grazing Allotment. A grazing reduction may be necessary if this parcel is disposed of in an exchange, because of the number of acres and AUMs involved. The grazing permittee would be given a two year notice prior to any grazing reductions.</p> <p>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA: The River Bluffs Community Pit would be closed. Any previously authorized permits to extract soils from the pit would be allowed to obtain their approved amount of soil. However, no new permits to utilize soil from the pit would be authorized.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS (continued)			
<i>Existing and Potential Land Uses (continued)</i>			
	<p>Existing Land Uses (continued):</p> <p><i>OHV Management:</i> Amended OHV designations would eliminate existing cross-country OHV use, except in the area within the Lemhi County R&PP lease site and by special authorization. Changes in OHV management would also close the entire Eighteenmile WSA to motorized vehicle use (the suitable portion of the WSA is already closed). Vehicle use in some areas would be limited to designated routes only.</p>	<p>Existing Land Uses (continued):</p> <p><i>OHV Management:</i> Amended OHV designations would eliminate cross-country motorized vehicle use in the northern portion of the Field Office area, except in the area within the Lemhi County R&PP lease site and by special authorization. Vehicle use in some areas would be limited to designated routes only.</p>	<p>Existing Land Uses (continued):</p> <p><i>OHV Management:</i> Amended OHV designations would eliminate existing cross-country OHV use, except in the area within the Lemhi County R&PP lease site and by special authorization. Vehicle use in some areas would be limited to designated routes only.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS (continued)			
<i>Existing and Potential Land Uses (continued)</i>			
<p>Potential Land Uses:</p> <p>Potential land uses which could continue to be allowed under existing management (depending on the outcome of public involvement and site-specific environmental analysis of a given proposed action), include actions such as construction of range improvements, minerals development, prescribed burning and other vegetation treatments on acres specified in the 1987 RMP, development of groomed snowmobile routes, recreation development within the presently designated Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA boundary, and potential expansion of the Lemhi County R&PP lease site. Because public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area would be retained in public ownership, land exchanges to acquire non-BLM lands with portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail, riparian habitat, fisheries and wildlife values, potential recreation sites, and/or public access (as well as land exchanges for other purposes) could not be pursued. The land ownership pattern in the Agency Creek portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail would continue to make future management of the Trail on public land difficult, because of the mixed ownership and lack of public access.</p>	<p>Potential Land Uses:</p> <p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Land exchanges to acquire non-BLM lands with segments of the Lewis and Clark Trail, riparian habitat, fisheries and wildlife values, public access and/or potential recreation sites could be pursued, since 2,200 acres would be made available for potential disposal.</p> <p><i>OHV Management:</i> Proposed changes in OHV designations may limit potential future land uses such as mineral development and timber harvest, by restricting cross-country vehicle access. These impacts could be mitigated through temporary OHV use authorizations, however.</p>	<p>Potential Land Uses:</p> <p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p> <p><i>OHV Management:</i> Proposed changes in OHV designations may limit potential future land uses (such as mineral development and timber harvest) in areas designated "limited" or "closed" to OHV use (about 57% of the Field Office area) by restricting cross-country vehicle access. In some instances these impacts could be mitigated through temporary OHV use authorization.</p>	<p>Potential Land Uses:</p> <p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p> <p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS (continued)			
<i>Existing and Potential Land Uses (continued)</i>			
	<p>Potential Land Uses (continued):</p> <p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Potential expansion of the motorized use R&PP lease site would not be provided for under this alternative. Amending the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation to include the current Trail location would increase opportunity to manage recreation use of that area, including interpretation, recreation facilities development, and other management to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the Trail area.</p>	<p>Potential Land Uses (continued):</p> <p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The motorized recreation use R&PP lease site could be adjusted, depending on the outcome of future public involvement and site-specific analysis. Amending the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation to include the current Trail location would increase opportunity to manage recreation use of that area, including interpretation, recreation facilities development, and other management to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the Trail area.</p>	<p>Potential Land Uses (continued):</p> <p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>
	<p>Visual Resource Management: VRM Class designations may limit the level of use and the location, design, and construction of some facilities, improvements, developments, and post/pole or timber harvest proposals on about 441,755 acres of VRM Class I and II areas.</p>	<p>Visual Resource Management: VRM Class designations may limit the level of use and the location, design, and construction of some facilities, improvements, developments, and post/pole or timber harvest proposals on about 299,422 acres of VRM Class I and II areas.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL LAND USES; AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS/NEED TO RESERVE ACCESS (continued)			
<i>Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access</i>			
<p>Current access would be maintained, including cross-country vehicle access on about 427,244 acres designated "open" to OHV use. Approximately 32,322 acres would continue to have limited access by motorized vehicle, due to OHV closures or limitations. Existing management would allow pursuit of opportunities to acquire future access through private land. The need to acquire public and administrative access through private land would continue to be important, since some historical access routes crossing private land are being closed to public use.</p>	<p>Access by motorized vehicle would be maintained on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or on designated routes throughout most of the Field Office area. However, motorized access would be reduced within areas that have seasonal OHV use limitations (about 72,546 acres) or are designated "closed" to OHV use (about 28,442 acres). Cross-country vehicle travel would be eliminated, except in the motorized recreation use lease area and in "limited" designation areas by special authorization.</p>	<p>Access by motorized vehicle would be maintained on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or designated routes throughout most of the northern portion of the Field Office area and in the Eighteenmile WSA. Access by travel cross-country would be maintained on about 209,960 acres in the southern portion of the Field Office area, in the motorized use lease area, and in "limited" designation areas by special authorization. Motorized access would be limited or reduced within areas that have seasonal OHV use limitations (about 35,276 acres) or are designated "closed" to OHV use (about 2,344 acres).</p>	<p>Access by motorized vehicle would be maintained on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails or on designated routes throughout most of the Field Office area. However, motorized access would be reduced within areas with seasonal OHV use limitations (about 72,548 acres) and within areas designated "closed" to OHV use (about 2,344 acres). Cross-country vehicle travel would be eliminated, except in the motorized recreation use lease area and in "limited" designation areas by special authorization.</p>
	<p>Potential disposal, through exchange, of the Agency Creek Recreation Site and adjoining public lands would eliminate one public access route through the Recreation Site. The loss of this access may be offset if public access is acquired in a future, potential land exchange of the 2,200 acres made available for disposal. Proposed management also allows acquisition of access through donation or willing seller purchase (in addition to exchange). The need to acquire public and administrative access through private land would continue to be important, since some historical access routes crossing private land are being closed to public use and proposed OHV management reduces motorized access to many portions of the Field Office area.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FISHERIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED FISH; WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES; WATER QUALITY			
Mitigated Impacts to Threatened/Endangered Fish Species - All Alternatives: Adverse effects on Federally listed or proposed for listing threatened or endangered fish populations and habitats will be consulted on under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7, with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.			
<i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Existing management (as described in Table 1) would not necessarily improve fisheries habitat condition, wetland/riparian habitat condition, or water quality, and may cause fisheries habitat condition, wetland/riparian habitat condition, and water quality to degrade slightly over the long term. Existing management may result in more extensive and long term impacts to fisheries and riparian/wetland habitats and water quality if large, destructive wild-fires should occur on public lands.	<i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative A would allow for a relatively small, long-term improvement in wetland/riparian and aquatic habitat condition and water quality throughout the Field Office area. Compared with Existing Management and Alternatives B and C, Alternative A provides for the greatest amount of stream/riparian/wetland habitat and water quality protection.	<i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative B would allow for a relatively small, long-term improvement in wetland/riparian and aquatic habitat condition and water quality in areas where OHV limitations and closures are implemented. Alternative B provides for more stream/riparian/wetland habitat and water quality protection than Existing Management, but less than Alternatives A or C.	<i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative C would allow for a relatively small, long-term improvement in wetland/riparian and aquatic habitat condition and water quality throughout the Field Office area. Alternative C provides slightly less stream/riparian/wetland habitat and water quality protection than Alternative A, but more protection than existing management or Alternative B.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FISHERIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED FISH; WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES; WATER QUALITY (continued)			
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Existing management would continue full suppression of wildfire on 444,770 acres and allow no options to use prescribed fire to improve watershed conditions and stream/riparian/wetland habitats or to help maintain good long-term water quality. Fuel loading and continuity would be expected to increase with the absence of fire, resulting in potential for fires of high intensity and severity over large areas of the landscape. High-intensity fires could severely impact fish habitat, riparian/wetland habitat, and water quality via increased soil erosion, sedimentation, water temperatures, and nutrient loading, and reduced riparian vegetation, instream cover, stream habitat characteristics, and substrate conditions. High intensity fires could also severely impact wetland and riparian habitat by changing soil conditions and causing higher rates of erosion that could affect plant community composition.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Proposed fire management could impact fisheries habitat, riparian/wetland habitat, and water quality for the short-term, through removal of critical riparian vegetation, resulting soil erosion, and higher water temperatures. Fish, fish habitat, and water quality could be negatively impacted from loss of upland and riparian vegetation that result in increased erosion and sedimentation to stream habitat. However, over the long term, properly managed fire would produce healthy natural riparian plant communities that stabilize soil and streambanks, increase instream cover, and moderate water temperatures. Watershed and wetland/riparian habitat condition and stability, fisheries habitat, and water quality would be expected to improve on a landscape scale.</p>		
<p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Retaining approximately 2,200 acres in the Agency Creek area in public ownership would maintain the fisheries habitat, wetland/riparian habitat, and water quality in Agency Creek in current condition.</p>	<p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> The public lands proposed for disposal include important westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout habitat, and include streams that influence chinook salmon habitat downstream in the Lemhi River. Disposing of these public lands may impact fisheries habitat and water quality in Agency and Cow creeks and wetlands and riparian habitat along a short section of Agency Creek if future use of the transferred lands includes permanent, surface-disturbing actions such as home or road construction. Impacts may include increased water temperature, soil erosion and compaction in riparian/wetland zones, sedimentation, and nutrient loading, as well as reduced habitat cover, removal of native vegetation, and introduction of noxious weeds that change the vegetation composition of riparian/wetland areas. The impacts of any proposed land exchange would be analyzed further when the exchange proposal is developed.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FISHERIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED FISH; WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES; WATER QUALITY (continued)			
<p><i>Minerals Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i> The River Bluffs Community Pit site would remain open under Existing Management. Mineral materials use and OHV use at the pit site have increased the potential of sediment delivery into the Salmon River. However, this does not appear to be a threat to resident fish or Federally listed species in the Salmon River. Although this community pit is not used extensively, potential for minimal sedimentation impacts to fisheries habitat would be expected to continue until the site is closed and rehabilitated.</p>	<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i> Closing and rehabilitating the River Bluffs Community Pit would reduce, and eventually eliminate, minimal sedimentation impacts from this source to occupied salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat in the Salmon River.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FISHERIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED FISH; WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES; WATER QUALITY (continued)			
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Existing management allows unrestricted year-long OHV access to about 93 percent of the Field Office area. OHV use in the Field Office area is expected to increase as use restrictions continue to be implemented by the BLM and USFS elsewhere in Idaho and in adjacent states. Impacts to wetland/riparian/stream habitat and water quality would be expected to increase as OHV use increases. These impacts are expected to be minimal, however. Current and anticipated levels of OHV use increase the potential for soil and streambank disturbance and the spread of noxious weeds. Soil and streambank disturbance in turn increase the likelihood of riparian/wetland and aquatic habitat degradation and decreased water quality through increased soil erosion and sedimentation. The spread of noxious weeds can change the vegetative composition of important watersheds, potentially impacting riparian/wetland/fisheries habitat and water quality via increased soil erosion and water temperatures, and reduced riparian vegetation and instream cover.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Proposed OHV management changes should improve riparian, wetland, and fisheries habitat and water quality slightly by nearly eliminating cross-country vehicle travel which could cause erosion, degraded vegetative conditions, and an overall decline in watershed conditions. OHV limitations would increase the predictability of where vehicle use would occur and vehicle impacts could be mitigated through transportation planning, thereby reducing soil erosion, and increasing streambank stability. OHV limitations would decrease sedimentation and reduce water temperatures by retaining native upland and streamside riparian vegetation. Riparian/wetland habitat loss or degradation (e.g., spread of weeds, soil erosion, riparian vegetation modification) due to OHV activity would also be reduced. Overall, proposed OHV management would contribute to healthier watershed conditions, wetland/riparian habitat, and fisheries habitat into the future.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Effects would be the same as Alternative A for portions of the Field Office area that are designated "limited" or "closed" to OHV use (primarily the northern half of the planning area). Effects would generally be the same as Existing Management for areas designated "open," except impacts may be slightly greater since cross-country OHV use would be concentrated on a smaller land area.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FOREST RESOURCES			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> A past history of fire suppression and a lack of prescribed fire have altered forest composition and structure, as well as reducing forest health and productivity. These impacts to forest resources are expected to continue under existing management. Existing off-highway vehicle management would maintain administrative and public access to manage and utilize resources from forested lands.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Amending fire management to allow greater use of prescribed fire would, over time, increase forest productivity and improve forest health. Off-highway vehicle use restrictions may limit public access to utilize forest resources in some areas; however, these impacts may be mitigated through special use authorization.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Amending fire management to allow greater use of prescribed fire would, over time, increase forest productivity and improve forest health. Off-highway vehicle use restrictions in the northern portion of the Field Office may limit public access to utilize forest resources in some areas; however, these impacts may be mitigated through special use authorization.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FOREST RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Over the past 100 years, fire suppression efforts in the planning area have become more aggressive and effective and, for the most part, successfully excluded the large, high intensity, destructive type fires. However, fire suppression efforts have also greatly reduced the low intensity ground fires that frequently occurred in this area. Existing management has only allowed very limited use of prescribed fire to benefit forest resources. As a result of this fire exclusion, the following things have occurred and are likely to continue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead trees, branches, needles, and shrubs (fuel loading) have generally increased, and areas having moderate to high fuel loadings have become larger and more contiguous. As a result, fires that do start in these areas tend to be larger and more destructive. <p>(continued)</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> The prescribed fire management philosophy would benefit forest resources by reducing or eliminating both understory (ladder) fuels and areas of higher than normal fuel loadings. This would help reduce the likelihood that a low intensity ground fire would become a high intensity destructive fire.</p> <p>Utilizing prescribed fire along with other timber management practices would change the structure of forested areas by making stands less uniform, less dense, and with a variety of age classes. This, in turn, would help create forested areas that are more productive, healthy, and able to resist stress, insect and disease attacks, and destructive wildfire events.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
FOREST RESOURCES (continued)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The kinds of trees and the size and age (structure) of forest ecosystems have been altered and are much more uniform, dense, and older-aged over much larger areas than at any time in the historic past. Because of this change in structure, forest stands will tend to be less productive and more susceptible to stress, insects, diseases, and fire-related mortality. Small trees and brush (ladder fuels) which can carry a ground fire from the surface to the crowns of larger trees are abundant in sizable areas of forested ecosystems. 			
<p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Public lands in the Agency Creek area would be retained in public ownership, including approximately 583 acres of commercial forest lands.</p>	<p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> The proposed amendment would potentially dispose of about 2,200 acres in the Agency Creek area, including approximately 583 acres of commercial forest lands. These forest lands have limited commodity value as sawtimber or posts and poles. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are the primary species, and vary in density and size. Because of the lack of roads, the steep terrain, and the distance to the nearest mill, the value of this timber is considerably reduced. The residual value of the timber would be considered in the appraised value of the public land.</p>		
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Continuing an "open" designation throughout most of the Field Office area would maintain access to forest resources for commodity use.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> OHV limitations may limit access to forest resources for commodity use. However, this may be mitigated through the use of special access permits.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A for the northern half of the Field Office area. Impacts would be the same as Existing Management for the southern half of the Field Office area.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
MINERAL RESOURCES			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Existing management would allow mineral development in accordance with applicable minerals regulations throughout most of the Field Office Area; additional guidance or restrictions would continue to apply within the Eighteenmile WSA, ACECs, and areas with No Surface Occupancy stipulations, seasonal closures, or withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. Access for mineral activities is generally not restricted, since 93 percent of the Field Office area is open to cross-country vehicle travel. Extensive VRM Class III and IV areas would allow mineral development to occur with few restrictions.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> This alternative would add restrictions to mineral development by increasing the public land base with off-highway vehicle use limitations or closures, and changing VRM designations from a majority of Class III and IV areas to a majority of Class I and II areas.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Impacts of Alternative B would be the same as for Alternative A, except there would be fewer restrictions for mineral development in the southern portion of the Field Office area where OHV use would not be restricted (except in the Eighteenmile WSA).</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative C management actions would likely restrict minerals development more than Existing Management and Alternative B, but less than Alternative A, by increasing the public land base with OHV use limitations or closures, and increasing the percent of public lands with more restrictive VRM Class II designations.</p>
<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i></p> <p><u>Locatable Minerals Withdrawal:</u> Because there is very little locatable mineral activity within the existing withdrawal area, impacts to the locatable minerals resource are expected to be negligible.</p> <p><u>NSO Stipulation:</u> There would be no impacts anticipated to leasable minerals as a result of the present No Surface Occupancy stipulation because there is little to no potential for development of oil, gas, phosphate, coal, or other leasable minerals.</p>	<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i></p> <p><u>Locatable Minerals Withdrawal:</u> Because there are very few mining claims within the proposed Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, the impacts of the proposed withdrawal on the mining industry or on future individual claimants are expected to be negligible. Existing mining claims, located primarily within the Pattee Creek area, would be recognized as a prior valid existing right.</p> <p><u>NSO Stipulation:</u> There would be no impacts to leasable minerals activities as a result of the amended No Surface Occupancy stipulation, because there is little to no potential for development of oil, gas, phosphate, coal, or other leasable minerals.</p> <p>(continued)</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
MINERAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA: (continued)</i></p> <p><u>Mineral Materials Site:</u> A 40-acre Community Pit located in T. 22N., R. 22E., B.M., Section 32: SE¼NE¼ and commonly known as the "River Bluffs" Community Pit was established in 1965, and has provided residential and business customers an inexpensive source of soil, suitable primarily for fill material. Over the last several years, the number of permits issued at this site has decreased substantially, due to the lack of demand and the poor quality of soil. In 1998 there was one permit issued for 69 cubic yards of material, in 1999 one permit was issued for 70 cubic yards, and in 2000 there have been two permits issued for a total of 146 cubic yards. Keeping the pit site open would allow customers continued access to this inexpensive source of fill material.</p>	<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA: (continued)</i></p> <p><u>Mineral Materials Site Closure:</u> Closure of this site should have a negligible impact on minerals activities, since better quality materials are available at private sources and few customers have utilized the site in recent history.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
MINERAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Approximately 93% of the Field Office area is open to unrestricted vehicle use for multiple use purposes, including minerals exploration and development. Existing seasonal limitations and closures on areas such as the Trail Creek ACEC and Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area have had no known impact on mineral activities in the area. Existing OHV management is also expected to have a negligible impact on future minerals exploration and development, since minerals activities have been minimal throughout the planning area during the last 20 years and there is low potential for future mineral development.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Limiting OHV use to designated routes or existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails on the majority of the planning area would limit access for mining claimants to these routes. Since not all of the existing mining claims are located next to a designated route or an existing road or vehicle way, claimants would be required to obtain permission to deviate from the designated or existing travel routes.</p> <p>Additional seasonal OHV limitations for protection of wildlife and other resources are expected to have a minimal impact, if any, on mineral activities. Mining claimants would be required to conduct their mineral exploration and development work during the open times of the year for these particular areas.</p> <p>OHV closure areas do not contain any active mining claims. Mining claimants would be required to file a Plan of Operations, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 3809.1-4(a)(3), for any activities within ACECs and areas designated "closed" to OHV use. The effect of these OHV closures to minerals activities is expected to be negligible.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> The impacts to mineral development would be similar to Alternative A, but somewhat less, because about half of the Field Office area would be open to unrestricted motorized vehicle use.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
MINERAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> About 90 percent of the Field Office area is designated as VRM Class III and IV. This designation allows activities which would alter the character of the landscape by changing the form, shape, color, and/or line of the land and, in many cases, attract the attention of the casual observer. Minerals exploration and development would be managed in accordance with VRM guidelines, and some stipulations may be required on mineral activities to reduce visual impacts, especially in Class I and II areas (approximately 44,076 acres).</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Changing existing VRM class designations may have a minimal impact to minerals activities, especially in areas designated as Class I or Class II (about 441,755 acres). Reclamation efforts would likely require a more thorough restoration effort to return the land to its pre-disturbed condition. In areas of national significance, such as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, it may be less likely that the proposed activity would be feasible without having long-term impacts on the scenic and visual quality of an area. Higher standards for rehabilitation work and construction and mining techniques may cost the land user (mining claimant) more time and/or money in order to do the work with the least amount of visual impairment.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Impacts to minerals in VRM Class I or II areas would be the same as described for Alternative A, except only 299,422 acres would be designated as VRM Class I or II. Impacts to minerals of VRM Class III designation would be the same as Existing Management on 193,966 acres with Class III designation.</p>	
RANGELAND VEGETATION TYPES/COMMUNITIES; RANGELAND RESOURCES; RANGELAND CONDITION; INVASIVE/NON-NATIVE SPECIES; THREATENED/ENDANGERED PLANTS; BLM SENSITIVE PLANTS			
<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition</i>			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Existing fire management would be expected to continue to alter the composition, structure, and density of rangeland vegetation in most areas managed by the Salmon Field Office. Existing OHV management has resulted in localized vegetation disturbance (crushing, uprooting) impacts within some portions of the Field Office area that are designated "open" for cross-country OHV use.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Proposed management would improve vegetation condition and vigor.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Vegetation condition and vigor would improve in locations where changes are implemented in both fire management and OHV management (generally, the northern portion of the Field Office area). The vegetative response in areas designated "open" to OHV use would be less noticeable or may not occur at all.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition</i> (continued)			
<p>Fire Management: The following impacts have resulted from existing fire management and/or would be expected to occur in the future. Fire suppression has tended to increase brush densities (<i>i.e.</i>, increase production of sagebrush) in some areas, but has limited the spread of invasive annual species (<i>i.e.</i> cheatgrass). Douglas-fir encroachment into adjoining rangeland has occurred in some areas, resulting in the conversion of shrub/grass rangeland to a more moist forest type. When wildfire occurs in the future, high brush densities may contribute to higher fire intensities, potentially resulting in stand replacing fires with little or no mosaic pattern (edge effect). The intensity of these events may “sterilize” areas, making them unable to support native plant growth for a number of growing seasons. These areas may become susceptible to weed infestation. Some fire suppression efforts may remove all rangeland vegetation to mineral soil. Such “fire lines,” which may be from three to twelve feet wide, are rehabilitated with seed, physical structures, or both to facilitate vegetative establishment, site stabilization, and reduce noxious or invasive weed establishment.</p>	<p>Fire Management: The use of fire or other vegetation manipulation techniques could occur throughout the Field Office area to achieve resource objectives such as improving rangeland vegetation condition. Based on resource objectives, the use of fire and/or other techniques could temporarily reduce canopy cover and biomass of shrubs (<i>i.e.</i>, decrease production of sagebrush) and increase canopy cover and biomass of forage species (<i>i.e.</i>, increase production of grasses and forbs). The following factors and many others would be assessed on a more site-specific basis during fire activity and project planning to help ensure that the application of prescribed fire and/or other vegetation manipulation techniques meets RMP objectives.</p> <p>Many common shrubs and herbaceous plants can renew themselves from plant parts that survive fire (FEIS 2000). Other plants are quite susceptible to fire-kill and reestablish or colonize from off-site seed sources near the burned area. Fires vary in intensity and frequency depending on vegetation, fire regime, and weather conditions. As a result of adaptation to natural fire regimes, native plants differ in their response to different fire intensity and timing. Lower intensity spring fires may not consume the soil seed bank, which is more critical for maintenance of annual species which reproduce by seed versus perennial species which reproduce by seed or vegetatively. Many native grasses, shrubs and forbs are at a more vulnerable stage when they are actively growing, but are only slightly affected by fire in the dormant season. Seral species may require a variety of growing conditions such as bare soil or open canopy vs. shaded canopy.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition</i> (continued)			
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Existing OHV management has both direct and indirect effects on rangeland vegetation. Cross-country OHV use uproots and crushes vegetation, and may facilitate seedbed preparation for the invasion or spread of noxious weeds. Cross country OHV use and repetitious use on new or existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails compacts soils, erodes soils, and increases overland flows in localized areas, reducing the site productivity of those areas for rangeland vegetation.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> OHV use limitations and closures would control where and when OHV use would occur, helping to reduce plant uprooting and destruction. The vegetative response of such limitations would allow certain vegetation in certain areas to complete growth cycles, become better established, and eventually re-colonize some disturbed sites. OHV limitations or closures would also lessen soil compaction and overland flows, increasing infiltration rates and site productivity. Seedbed preparation for noxious weeds would not occur. Rangeland vegetation uprooting and crushing would not occur or would be limited to certain areas. Habitat for, and populations of, special status plants (if any) would be protected from crushing or uprooting.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> The impacts to rangeland vegetation in the southern portion of the Field Office area would be the same as described under Existing Management. The impacts to rangeland vegetation in the northern portion of the Field Office area would be the same as described under Alternative A.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>
<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The existing 9,080-acre Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA designation has had no known impact to rangeland vegetation.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Management of the SRMA would seek to retain the natural aspects of the landscape. The impacts to good condition rangeland vegetation would be negligible. Areas of poor and fair condition rangeland would show improvement in plant size, frequency, and vigor. OHV limitations along the Lewis and Clark Trail route would result in noticeable change in the visual appearance of the rangeland vegetation along the Trail route. Existing OHV trails/roads that are not designated routes would slowly "fill in" with grasses, forbs and shrubs, eventually obscuring any visual sign of past impacts.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition</i> (continued)			
<i>Visual Resource Management:</i> The large acreage of VRM Class III and IV designations would allow the location and installation of range improvements with minimal design or location restrictions. Such range improvements would facilitate livestock distribution, resulting in more uniform grazing use. Grazing impacts to rangeland vegetation in these areas would be noticeable, due to the allowable utilization levels on forage species. Visual resources would be considered and further evaluated as part of activity and project planning.	<i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Rangeland vegetation condition in VRM Class I or II areas (441,755 acres) may improve slightly. Livestock distribution and utilization levels on forage species may be more closely monitored in these areas. VRM Class I or II guidelines may restrict design and installation of some range improvement projects/facilities, but other livestock management actions to maintain livestock distribution and retain existing visual character would continue to benefit rangeland vegetation.	<i>Visual Resource Management.</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A for VRM Class I and II areas (299,422 acres). On the remainder of the Field Office area with a VRM Class III designation (193,966 acres), current rangeland vegetation condition would likely remain static. In most cases range improvements could still be constructed under Class III guidelines, to facilitate livestock distribution, and forage utilization levels that conform with “partial retention” guidelines could continue.	
<i>Invasive/Non-native Species</i>			
<u>Introduction:</u> The spread of noxious weeds and other invasive plant species is a major consideration in fire management planning. Because much of the planning area is susceptible to invasion by these species, there may be indirect effects on native plant communities and ecosystems from the proposed amendment alternatives or existing management. Species which readily colonize disturbed areas (such as spotted knapweed) have been observed to increase after burning in low-elevation open forests and grasslands, especially where there are existing infestations and seeds present. Cheatgrass is notorious for increasing after fire if the native vegetation has already been degraded. Leafy spurge survives fire by re-sprouting from its rhizomes, which are underground stems (Fire Effects Information System (FEIS)). Although research and monitoring is underway, at this time no specific correlations can be drawn between weed spread and variables such as type of habitat, fire intensity, timing, amount of weeds present before the fire, and previous disturbance such as grazing.			
<u>Impacts - All Alternatives (including Existing Management):</u> Indirect effects of fire suppression activities include soil disturbance and seed dispersal by fire vehicles. The cumulative effects of prescribed fire, however, may outweigh any adverse direct and indirect effects. Reducing fuel accumulations by prescribed fire in turn reduces the chance of high-intensity fire, thus decreasing the chance of weed invasion by benefitting the native vegetation.			

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<i>Invasive/Non-native Species</i> (continued)			
Existing fire management provides limited opportunity to improve the condition of native vegetation or reduce the risk of high-intensity fire through prescribed burning. Poorer condition range lands would continue to be more susceptible to weeds invasion following high intensity fires. Assuming current management for weeds spread (rehabilitation of areas burned by wildfires and areas affected by suppression tactics, such as fire line construction) would continue, such management would help prevent the establishment and spread of noxious weeds following wildfire events.	Limitations on OHV use would restrict vehicle activity and therefore limit the spread of noxious weeds by vehicle. Future activities associated with the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA and Backcountry Byway are expected to increase weed spread beyond current levels as road maintenance and visitor use increase. Visitors may introduce new weed species through seeds attached to vehicles or gear. It is difficult to predict whether this increase will be noticeably more, or how long any increase could last.		
<i>Threatened/Endangered Plants</i>			
No Federally listed threatened or endangered plants or habitat for listed species occur in the planning area. Therefore, none of the alternatives (including existing management) would have an impact on threatened or endangered plants.			

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<p>BLM Sensitive Plants</p> <p>Introduction: Native plant species have evolved with and adapted to natural fires. These fires varied in intensity, frequency, and timing, depending on vegetation, fire regime, and weather conditions. In the planning area, lightning-caused fires occur from early summer to late fall. As a result of adaptation to natural fire regimes, native plants differ in their response to different fire intensity and timing. For example, following a late spring fire, individuals of certain annual species may not produce seed. Certain native grasses, shrubs, and forbs are more vulnerable during the spring while they are actively growing, but are not affected by fires during their dormant season (<i>i.e.</i>, when they are not actively growing, flowering, or producing seed). Other “serotinous” species require fire for seed germination. Still other early seral species require the bare mineral soil and open canopy created by moderate to severe intensity fires to recolonize burned areas. Wildland fire patterns over the landscape maintain this habitat; fire exclusion has resulted in a loss of early seral habitat, in addition to the changes in vegetation described in the Affected Environment – Forest Resources section.</p> <p>Some of the BLM-designated Sensitive plant species present in the Field Office area are known to respond favorably to fire. For example, Lemhi penstemon has been observed to increase after prescribed fire (Heidel and Shelly 1999). Specific monitoring has not been done for the other species. However, some conclusions can be drawn from observed fire effects to species with similar habitat and ecology, including certain willows, sedges, and milkvetches, all of which respond favorably to light intensity fire in the dormant season (Fire Effects Information System (FEIS)).</p> <p>As mentioned in the “Invasive/Non-native Species” analysis above, certain noxious weeds and other non-native invasive plant species are also early seral species which may benefit from fire. However, by considering the timing of proposed burns and any Sensitive plant species present in the burn area, cumulative effects should be beneficial for two reasons. First, the chance of stand-replacing fire would be reduced, thus decreasing the chance of weed spread. Second, the native plant communities, including rare species, would benefit from improved habitat resulting from more frequent, lower intensity fires.</p>			
Impacts to BLM-designated Sensitive plant species from future management activities would continue to be analyzed on a project-specific level. Any current impacts from wildland fires and OHV use would continue, such as known populations being burned over in wildland fires or trampled by off-road vehicle use.	Prescribed fire implementation could be designed to create more habitat for certain BLM-designated Sensitive plant species. Impacts to all Sensitive and other rare plant species from any proposed prescribed burning would be analyzed on a project-specific level. Mitigation to avoid any adverse effects would be recommended if necessary, and monitoring to assess effects to vegetation would be implemented. Proposed OHV limitations on about 464,946 acres would reduce any existing adverse effects to sensitive plants from OHV use in those areas. Sensitive/rare plant populations would be fully protected from OHV impacts on the 28,442 acres designated “closed” to OHV use.	As in Alternative A, impacts to BLM-designated Sensitive plant species from any proposed prescribed burning would be analyzed on a project-specific level, with possible habitat improvement for certain species. Mitigation and monitoring would be implemented as necessary. The proposed OHV limitations and closures would reduce or eliminate vehicle-related impacts to Sensitive plant species in areas designated “closed” or “limited” to OHV use (283,428 acres).	Prescribed fire implementation could be designed to create more habitat for certain BLM-designated Sensitive plant species. Impacts to all Sensitive and other rare plant species from any proposed prescribed burning would be analyzed on a project-specific level. Mitigation to avoid any adverse effects would be recommended if necessary, and monitoring to assess effects to vegetation would be implemented. Proposed OHV limitations on about 491,044 acres would reduce any existing adverse effects to sensitive plants from OHV use in those areas. Sensitive/rare plant populations would be fully protected from OHV impacts on the 2,344 acres designated “closed” to OHV use.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
RECREATION USE - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL; WILDERNESS			
<i>Recreation Use - Existing and Potential</i>			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Existing management would not emphasize long-term management of the Lewis and Clark NHT and associated resources or allow the BLM to pursue acquisition of important Trail segments and cultural sites through exchange. Existing management would facilitate motorized recreation, but increase conflicts with recreationists who desire non-motorized recreation experiences. Current visual resource management would tend to degrade the scenic quality of public lands which is an important part of most recreationists' experience.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative A would emphasize long-term management of the Lewis and Clark NHT and associated resources and allow the BLM to pursue acquisition of important Trail segments and cultural sites. This alternative would continue to allow general access to public lands in most of the Field Office area, but would restrict cross country vehicle travel and tend to decrease conflict between motorized and non-motorized users. Proposed visual resource management would emphasize conservation of the landscape and retain the scenic quality that many recreationists value.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative B would emphasize long-term management of the Lewis and Clark NHT and associated resources and allow the BLM to pursue acquisition of important Trail segments and cultural sites. This alternative would continue to allow general access to public lands in most of the Field Office area and allow cross-country vehicle travel in most of the southern portion of the planning area. Use conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation users would likely persist in areas open to cross-country use. In the northern portion of the Field Office area where cross country vehicle travel would be restricted, fewer conflicts would occur between motorized and non-motorized users. Proposed visual resource management would emphasize conservation of the landscape and retain the scenic quality within special management areas and the foreground visible from major travel routes. Scenic resources on other, seldom seen, public lands would be partially retained.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative C would emphasize long-term management of the Lewis and Clark NHT and associated resources and allow the BLM to pursue acquisition of important Trail segments and cultural sites. This alternative would continue to allow general access to public lands in most of the Field Office area, but would restrict cross country vehicle travel and tend to decrease conflict between motorized and non-motorized users. Proposed visual resource management would emphasize conservation of the landscape and retain the scenic quality within special management areas and the foreground visible from major travel routes. Scenic resources on other, seldom seen, public lands would be partially retained.</p>
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Impacts of existing fire management to recreation use could include use restrictions while the BLM conducts fire suppression, prescribed burning, or rehabilitation efforts. Impacts may also include loss of recreational opportunities while the land stabilizes after catastrophic fire events.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> As under existing management, recreation use could be affected by use restrictions during fire suppression, prescribed burning, or rehabilitation activities. Over time, greater use of prescribed fire should reduce the risk of catastrophic fire events that destroy recreational opportunities. Using fire as a tool to manage forest and rangeland health and conserve and mimic natural landscape functions would accentuate the visual qualities of the area and the recreation experience for many public land users.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<i>Recreation Use - Existing and Potential</i> (continued)			
<p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Retaining the Agency Creek Recreation Site and about 2,200 acres of adjoining public lands in public ownership would maintain the existing recreation opportunities available on those lands. However, no public lands would be available to exchange for higher value lands with portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail, potential recreation sites, public access, or other recreation values.</p>	<p><i>Lands - Retention and Disposal:</i> Disposing of about 2,200 acres of public lands in the Agency Creek/Cow Creek area would reduce the recreational opportunities in that area by closing the Agency Creek Recreation Site and making those lands unavailable for general public access to hunt or engage in other recreational activities. Disposal of these public lands would enable acquisition of equal or higher recreation value lands with portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail, public access, potential recreation sites, and other recreation values. The specific impacts of the proposed land exchange would be analyzed further when the land exchange proposal is developed.</p>		
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Existing OHV management (93% "open") would maintain motorized access for recreation use throughout most of the Field Office area. However, as OHV use increases in the planning area, existing OHV management is likely to result in more frequent conflicts between public lands users (including recreationists), as well as conflicts with other resources.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> OHV management would eliminate cross country motorized travel throughout the planning area, but would continue to allow use of most existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails. This would continue to allow traditional access to many areas, but much of the sense of unrestricted freedom that some OHV travelers enjoy would be lost. Alternative A would allow recreationists who desire the opportunity, to recreate in an area where there is no OHV use, since there would be more areas where an experience relatively absent of OHVs could occur. Fewer conflicts between public lands users would be expected.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> OHV management impacts would be the same as Alternative A for recreationists in the northern and western portions of the Field Office area, while OHV management impacts for the southern portions of the Lemhi Valley and northern portions of the Birch Creek valley would remain essentially the same as existing management. The southern portion of the planning area would retain its relatively unrestrictive character, since vehicular travel would only be restricted in the Eighteenmile WSA and the Birch Creek Springs area. This would tend to concentrate cross-country travel in that area. This could increase conflicts with other users, wildlife, and attempts to conserve the characteristic landscape. Areas restricted due to wildlife concerns would be slightly smaller than Alternative A, resulting in slightly fewer restrictions for OHV users. A limited number of designated routes within the Sevenmile ACEC would be available for use.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
RECREATION USE - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL; WILDERNESS (continued)			
<i>Recreation Use - Existing and Potential</i> (continued)			
<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The existing area delineated as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT) SRMA (9,080 acres) does not contain all of the currently accepted Trail route on public lands, and only includes minimal acreage within areas of historical and managerial importance to the Trail. The existing designation would not cover an area large enough for special management to conserve the historic landscape of the Lewis and Clark Trail, provide related facilities to accommodate visitors, and/or manage the impacts of those visitors. Existing visual resource and minerals guidelines for the Trail do not adequately protect the Trail and adjacent landscape, since those guidelines were applied to an incorrect Trail alignment.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The SRMA designation would incorporate the entire Trail managed by BLM as well as adjacent and related areas totaling 31,014 acres. The SRMA would include an area large enough to include facilities associated with the Trail (e.g., Backcountry Byway, recreation sites, transportation routes). It would also include the Lemhi County Motorized Recreation Area Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) lease near the River Bluffs. The R&PP lease was authorized in 1984 following several years of organized motocross race permitting. The lease area straddles a short section of what is known today as the Trail route. The landscape in this immediate area and the surrounding landscape have been significantly modified for a motocross racetrack, access roads, parking areas, a radio controlled aircraft airstrip, and an electric transmission line. If the lease or even a portion of the lease was relinquished, that area could be rehabilitated over time to resemble the historic landscape that the Corps of Discovery encountered. Future recreation development of the lease site would have to conform with management guidelines for the SRMA, including a VRM Class II designation. This alternative would favor conservation of all of the Trail area managed by BLM.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The majority of impacts would be the same as Alternative A, except the SRMA would be slightly smaller (30,784 acres) since the R&PP lease site would not be included in the SRMA. As a result, management of the Lewis and Clark Trail would not be continuous in the River Bluffs section. This alternative would allow previously authorized recreation use of the R&PP lease area, as well as future recreation development of the lease site which conforms with VRM Class III guidelines and OHV use on designated routes and areas.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
RECREATION USE - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL; WILDERNESS (continued)			
<i>Recreation Use - Existing and Potential</i> (continued)			
	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation</i> (continued): The SRMA designation would generally have a positive impact to heritage and cultural tourism, except the modern changes to the historic landscape within the R&PP lease site would affect heritage and cultural tourism in the River Bluffs area. Including the known and probable Trail location and associated cultural resources within the SRMA would allow these resources to be better managed for recreation use through conservation of the historic landscape and future development of visitor facilities, interpretation, and education. SRMA management would restrict off-road vehicle use, thus affecting some OHV users. However, OHV use would be allowed to continue on a limited basis in portions of the SRMA (on designated routes and areas), helping to disperse motorized use while allowing access. Previously authorized motorized recreation use of the R&PP lease site would be allowed to continue. Mineral restrictions would protect the immediate Trail area from surface disturbance, thus protecting recreational experiences.</p>		
<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Current visual resource management would tend to allow gradual degradation of the scenic quality of the landscape that many recreationists value, including the landscape in areas of historical importance, such as the Lewis and Clark Trail.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Proposed visual resource management would emphasize conservation of the landscape and retain the scenic quality that many recreationists value.</p>	<p><i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Proposed visual resource management would emphasize conservation of the landscape and retain the scenic quality within special management areas and the foreground visible from major travel routes. Scenic resources on other, seldom seen, public lands would be partially retained. The majority of scenic views valued by recreationists would be maintained.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
RECREATION USE - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL; WILDERNESS (continued)			
<i>Wilderness</i>			
Existing management of the recommended suitable portion of the WSA (closed to OHV use) would continue to preserve the wilderness values of that portion of the WSA. Existing management for the recommended non-suitable portion of the WSA (vehicle ways existing at the time of Wilderness inventory) should continue to retain wilderness values as well; however, confusion over the location of existing routes has led to numerous unauthorized vehicle ways since the WSA was designated. This proliferation of new, unauthorized vehicle ways would be expected to continue.	Closing the entire WSA to motorized vehicle use would maintain and enhance the wilderness values of the area by eliminating motorized vehicle use within the WSA.	Limiting OHV use to designated routes within the WSA would help prevent the proliferation of unauthorized vehicle ways and associated loss of wilderness character. OHV use on designated routes would also be clearer to the public and more manageable. Amending the designation for the suitable portion of the WSA (changing it from "closed" to "limited to designated routes") would allow access on some of the roads and vehicle ways existing at the time of the Wilderness inventory. Proposed OHV management would not affect the WSA's suitability for designation as Wilderness, since only vehicle ways existing at the time of the Wilderness inventory are proposed as designated routes.	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
SOILS			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> The potential for accelerated erosion and widespread soil loss associated with wildfire and off-highway vehicle activity would continue to be high.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Over time, disruption of the soil surface due to fire and off-highway vehicle activity would be lessened or, in some areas, eliminated.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> In the northern portion of the Field Office, disruption of the soil surface due to fire and off-highway vehicle activity would decrease or, in some areas, be eliminated, over time. In the southern portion of the Field Office, soil disturbance impacts of cross-country OHV use would likely increase.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Existing fire management (full suppression, with limited prescribed burning) would continue to impact soils in the following ways. Fire suppression activities that include vegetation removal and soil disturbance will likely result in increased soil erosion. However, rehabilitation efforts would be implemented as necessary to rapidly revegetate soil types prone to erosion. A full suppression fire management strategy would reduce the immediate threat of accelerated soil erosion resulting from large-scale burning of vegetation and microbiotic soil cover. However, suppressing fires also increases the risk of large, uncontrollable fires that result in large scale burn areas susceptible to widespread, accelerated soil erosion.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> In locations where full suppression occurs, the impacts would be the same as described under existing management. However, over time, Alternatives A, B, and C would allow the use of prescribed fire over more of the landscape, gradually reducing the risk of large, uncontrollable fires. Fire activity and project planning would consider vegetation and soil disturbing effects by identifying and controlling fire in plant communities with a high risk of fire effects (<i>e.g.</i>, cheatgrass, microbiotic crust populations) and including burn prescriptions that allow cooler, mosaic type burns, resulting in reduced risk of widespread, accelerated soil erosion. Minor, short term soil disturbance and erosion could be expected from prescribed burns, especially if burns are followed by heavy precipitation, due to removal of vegetation that protects the soil surface. However, prescribed burning would also likely contribute nutrients to the soil and thereby improve soil productivity and subsequent plant regeneration, at least for the short term.</p> <p>Ecosystem processes are dependent upon the soil resource. Fire can play a normal role in these processes, if it occurs under normal conditions of light fuels associated with low intensity underburns. Fuel buildup and consequent high severity fires can cause soils to become water repellent, with greatly increased potential for overland flow during intense rains. Soils in a degraded condition do not function normally, and will not be able to sustain water quality, water yield, or plant communities that have normal structure, composition, and function. The risk of these adverse effects to soils would be reduced under Alternatives A, B, and C.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<i>OHV Management:</i> Existing OHV designations would continue to allow cross-country OHV use on the majority of the Field Office area, with continual disturbance to the soil surface and associated organic crust on and adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, as well as additional disturbance as road and trail networks expand to new, undisturbed areas.	<i>OHV Management:</i> OHV use limitations and closures would nearly eliminate new sedimentation and compaction impacts from off-road vehicle travel. Limiting OHV use to existing roads and vehicle ways or designated routes would allow mitigation efforts to focus on maintaining those routes, in order to minimize existing adverse sedimentation effects. Permitted OHV use in limited or closed areas may result in some surface soil disturbance, soil compaction, and disruption of microbiotic crusts in isolated instances. However, the potential for accelerated soil erosion would be minimal.	<i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts to soils in the northern portion of the Field Office area would be the same as Alternative A. In the southern portion of the Field Office area, areas designated "open" to cross-country OHV use would likely receive increased disturbance of the soil surface and associated organic crust; this increase is expected because cross-country OHV use would probably be concentrated in this region as OHV use limitations are implemented on adjacent public lands.	<i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.

TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS; INDIAN TRUST RESOURCES; NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Mitigated Effects - All Alternatives (including Existing Management): Consultation with appropriate Native American tribal governments would help ensure that all anticipated impacts to the exercise of treaty rights, traditional, and religious activities are addressed in the planning, decision, and operational documents prepared by the BLM. Consultation would help the BLM fulfill its trust responsibility to protect Native American treaty rights by providing valuable information from appropriate tribal members concerning areas and resources of importance. Consultation would also help ensure that these resources and sacred places are not inadvertently transferred from Federal ownership or physically damaged. Through meaningful consultation at the activity and project planning levels, the resources and places that are important to appropriate Indian tribes would be effectively managed and protected.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS; INDIAN TRUST RESOURCES; NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS (continued)			
<p><i>Summary of Effects:</i> Existing management would maintain motorized access to places and resources important to appropriate tribal governments throughout the majority of the Field Office area, but may not sufficiently protect these resources. Existing management limits the use of prescribed fire as a tool to help maintain or enhance trust resources and sacred places; over time, the diversity or abundance of some of these resources may be lost through uncontrolled wildfire events or eventual decline of rangeland and forest vegetative diversity.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Effects:</i> Alternatives A, B, and C would maintain motorized access to tribal trust resources and traditional properties on existing roads, ways, and trails, or on designated routes throughout most of the Field Office area. Cross-country vehicle access would be restricted, especially in Alternatives A and C. Temporary exceptions for off-road use may be permitted, however. Alternatives A, B, and C would offer greater protection of sacred places, traditional cultural properties, and trust resources than existing management. Alternative A would offer the greatest level of protection, followed by Alternative C, then Alternative B.</p>		
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Full suppression of fire activity contributes to the build up of fuels that can result in catastrophic fire incidents which may destroy areas that contain resources of value in the exercise of tribal treaty rights. Halting the natural fire cycle for upland and forest ecosystems may compromise the vegetative diversity on public lands, with subsequent loss or diminishment of the array of resources important to Native American tribes.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> A shift of focus and priority within the Salmon Field Office toward prescribed fire management would mimic natural landscape processes, restoring the health of forest and rangeland ecosystems that provide for the exercise of certain tribal treaty rights on public lands. Close consultation with appropriate Native American governments during fire management activity planning and development of individual prescribed burn proposals would ensure that critical tribal concerns and expertise are fully considered. Tribal involvement in the implementation of prescribed fires would further benefit both relevant Indian tribes and the BLM.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS; INDIAN TRUST RESOURCES; NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS (continued)			
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> With certain exceptions, OHV travel within the Field Office area is designated as “open.” Currently identified designations may not sufficiently protect specially managed cultural and traditional properties from vehicular impacts such as surface disturbance or visual resource degradation, and may contribute to the alteration or destruction of additional, as yet unidentified, trust resources (such as particular plants or plant communities, features, local landscapes, etc.).</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Designating portions of the Field Office area as “limited” to designated routes or existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails would prevent impacts from off-road vehicle use, such as surface disturbance and visual resource degradation, from occurring within the Cultural Resource Management Areas listed in the existing RMP. These OHV limitations would also offer similar protection to other, as yet unidentified, traditional properties and places of sacred importance, especially under Alternatives A and C (which have more acres than Alternative B designated as “limited”). With relatively few exceptions, proposed OHV designations would continue to provide widespread access across the landscape. Recognizing the limited knowledge available to the BLM concerning many specific Indian trust resources or places of traditional cultural importance, neither Alternative A, B, nor C appears to seriously preclude or impact opportunities for applicable tribal members to continue to hunt, fish, gather, and otherwise utilize the public lands in the Salmon Field Office area.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
VISUAL RESOURCES			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> The Salmon River's scenic canyon, the Lemhi Range, the Beaverhead Mountains, the Salmon River Mountains, and the upper Lemhi and Birch Creek valleys all offer beautiful views. Currently, about 90 percent of the area is managed under VRM Class III or IV guidelines which allow the most visible change to the landscape. Over time, the visual resources in these areas may be slightly or substantially altered, and potentially degraded. Much of the planning area is visible from major highways, and even minor changes can be seen from long distances if projects are not constructed in such a way as to minimize visual impacts. The existing visual management designations do little to address the sensitive nature of the arid foothills and forested mountains managed by the Salmon Field Office. Re-vegetation of disturbed sites may take many years due to the lack of rain and short growing season.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative A would re-classify most of the planning area as VRM Class II- Retention and manage special areas as Class I - Preservation. Class I and II guidelines in these areas would protect the existing visual character of the landscape on about 90 percent of the Field Office area. The remaining 10 percent of the Field Office area would be managed as VRM Class III - Partial Retention. Slight visual degradation may occur in Class III areas; however, these areas are generally outside the view of major travel routes or otherwise not readily visible.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternatives B and C would maintain approximately 39% of the Field Office area as VRM Class III (existing management is 40% VRM Class III), while managing special areas as Class I and the visual foreground and middle-ground (0 to 3 miles) from major roads and highways as Class II. These alternatives would protect the visual quality of scenic areas, historic areas, and highly visible areas, but would allow for more change to the characteristic landscape than Alternative A. The visual resources of the Field Office area would receive much more protection than under existing management, since no lands would be managed as VRM Class IV - Modification, and the percentage managed as VRM Class I or Class II would increase from about 10% to about 61%.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
VISUAL RESOURCES (continued)			
<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i> Continued use of the River Bluffs Community Pit would allow further visual degradation of this portion of the known Lewis and Clark Trail route. The area has steep sidewalls with little native vegetation and some erosion due to the removal of material from the site and OHV use. The pit area has been strewn with garbage and rutted by OHV use. The area is at risk for noxious weed invasion because of the extent of surface disturbance.</p>	<p><i>Minerals - Management within the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA:</i> Applying minerals restrictions to the known or probable Trail location would protect visual resources along the Trail from future site disturbance due to minerals exploration or development. Closing the River Bluffs Community Pit would prevent further degradation of visual resources in this area, and restore this portion of the natural landscape once the area is rehabilitated.</p>		
<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA, as identified in the Lemhi RMP, is to be managed as VRM Class II. The current SRMA designation, however, does little to protect areas that are now known to include the Trail route(s). Activities such as pipeline and powerline construction, the River Bluffs soil pit, mining, and other land disturbing activities have altered the landscape along portions of the Trail that were not included in the Class II designation. Over time, continued cross-country OHV use within the existing SRMA and the presently accepted Trail area is expected to further degrade the visual resources along the Trail route.</p>	<p><i>Recreation - Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA Designation:</i> The proposed SRMA, including the currently known or probable locations of the Lewis and Clark Trail, would be managed as VRM Class II - Retention. This designation would protect the existing character of the landscape.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS			
<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Of the three alternatives, existing management offers the least assurance of quality wildlife habitat and robust wildlife populations into the future. However, existing management would generally help assure continued habitat availability and habitat management for wildlife on existing federal lands, the opportunity to acquire non-federal land for wildlife purposes, and wildlife habitat protection in some areas through seasonal OHV use restrictions on 16,230 acres (Agency/Pattee Creek area), year-long OHV restrictions on 14,796 acres (suitable portion of Eighteenmile WSA), and managing about 33,980 acres for a natural environment (Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA and Eighteenmile WSA). Managing the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA and Eighteenmile WSA to preserve or enhance the natural environment would provide for the protection and natural evolution of habitats for many species, as well as a wildlife environment with less potential for human-induced stress factors. Goals for "naturalness" in these areas may limit or prohibit some forms of artificial habitat improvement (e.g., guzzlers, nest platforms).</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> All wildlife species are assured a relatively high (though variable) level of security and freedom to exploit habitats to best advantage year-long in three areas: Eighteenmile WSA, Lewis and Clark SRMA, and Birch Creek headwaters. Of the three, the Eighteenmile WSA has the most restrictive covenants regarding human activity and therefore offers the greatest opportunity of the three for a secure and natural environment for a multitude of wildlife species. Both the SRMA and the Birch Creek headwaters will be subjected to increasing human pressures regardless of what management may - or may not - be instituted. (continued)</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Alternative B would help assure long-term presence of a relatively healthier, more productive complex of species in the northern portion of the Field Office area than would otherwise be the case in the absence of any restrictions on OHV use. Although Alternative B contains management actions (e.g., options for prescribed fire and changes in VRM classification) which theoretically could be beneficial to wildlife in the southern portion of the Field office area, it is doubtful those benefits would be sufficient to off-set the potential for high levels of habitat degradation and disturbance via unrestricted OHV use in all areas but the Eighteenmile WSA and the Birch Creek headwaters. (continued)</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS (continued)			
	<p><i>Summary of Impacts (continued):</i> The combination of management for naturalness, designated routes, seasonal closures, and localizing much of the activity via facilities such as parking/camping areas will greatly reduce randomness of human activity which otherwise would occur. These management efforts will increase the spatial/temporal predictability of that activity, making it more easily accommodated by many wildlife species in the SRMA. The amended SRMA designation would extend the aforementioned management to an additional 22,000 acres of wildlife habitat. Limiting access to foot-traffic only and managing for naturalness in the Birch Creek headwaters will afford general wildlife habitat protection/enhancement</p> <p>Goals for "naturalness" in these three areas may limit or prohibit some forms of "artificial" habitat improvement (e.g., guzzlers, nest platforms). Alternative A management actions in seasonal wildlife closure areas will reduce harassment/stress on wintering big game (and other animals in those areas) and will allow for more natural distribution of animals. This should be reflected in healthier, more productive animals going into the spring and summer.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Impacts (continued):</i> Effects regarding managing for "naturalness"(in the Eighteenmile WSA, Lewis and Clark SRMA, and Birch Creek headwaters) and effects of the seasonal wildlife closures would be the same as those noted for Alternative A.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS (continued)			
<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Existing fire management (full suppression) is potentially beneficial to some late successional species, but does not allow fire to create a diversity of habitat characteristics for a wide variety of early/mid successional species. Existing management only allows prescribed fire to be used to improve wildlife habitat on the limited sites and acreage specified in the RMP. Full suppression and limited use of prescribed fire result in a landscape that is more homogeneous, as more areas approach the same relative successional position and therefore structural and compositional makeup. The result is frequently loss of habitat mosaics, plant species diversity, and architectural complexity. This, in turn, is reflected in loss of variation in habitat modules or "niches" over the landscape. The presence, abundance, distribution, and diversity of wildlife species will likely be adversely affected over the long term. Fuel loading and continuity increase with the absence of fire, resulting in potential for fires of high intensity and severity over large areas of the landscape. Under such burning conditions, mosaics of a scale tolerable or beneficial to many species (<i>e.g.</i>, lynx) may be eliminated for long periods of time.</p>	<p><i>Fire Management:</i> Alternatives A, B, and C allow the use of naturally occurring wildfire to provide wildlife habitat or other resource benefits and provide much greater opportunity and flexibility in the use of prescribed fire than is currently available. Increased freedom to use fire will allow alteration of habitat architecture in an array of successional and structural mosaics that would enhance food and cover conditions for a number of individual species and/or suites of wildlife species. Wildlife diversity, abundance, and distribution would be expected to increase on a landscape scale as the habitat diversifies and provides more "niches."</p> <p>Fire can result in loss of important browse or shrub cover if conducted on wildlife winter ranges or nesting/breeding habitats. Loss of shrubs or forbs would reduce the abundance of some wildlife species in the area of the fire or displace wildlife into adjacent habitats, depending on the location and design of the fire. Stipulations in the fire management plan resulting from interdisciplinary team involvement would reduce or mitigate the potential for adverse effects on wildlife habitat and populations. Sagebrush-dependent wildlife species, such as sage grouse, pygmy rabbits, and antelope are most sensitive to alterations of sagebrush habitat. A carefully designed mosaic burn in dense, decadent sagebrush may enhance habitat, depending on the scale.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS (continued)			
<p><i>Lands - Retention, Disposal, and Acquisition:</i> Existing management would continue to provide opportunity to acquire non-BLM land for wildlife purposes. About 2,200 acres in the Agency/Cow creeks area would remain in public ownership, and continue to provide habitat for species such as antelope, elk, and deer.</p>	<p><i>Lands - Disposal and Acquisition:</i> Alternatives A, B, and C identify 2,200 acres in the Cow Creek/Agency Creek area which could be disposed of via exchange in order to acquire non-public lands which may include portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail, potential recreation sites, wildlife and fisheries habitat, and/or other values. The 2,200 acres identified for potential disposal contain important timbered escape cover for big game, very important deer and elk winter range, spring through fall deer and antelope range, year-long range for a few moose, habitat for various grouse (blue, Franklin's, and ruffed), as well as habitat for a multitude of non-game birds and mammals. The timbered slopes at the upper elevations run to the Continental Divide and, in concert with adjacent forest cover along the Divide, provide a relatively secure movement corridor for many species. As the nature and character of whatever land may eventually be acquired is unknown, it is unclear what such an exchange may mean from a wildlife standpoint. In the absence of some overriding factor or very high wildlife habitat values, disposal of the 2,200 acres would be a considerable loss to wildlife.</p>		
<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Existing management allows unrestricted year-long OHV access to all but 16,230 acres with seasonal restrictions (Pattee/Agency Creek big game winter range) and 14,796 acres closed to OHV use (the suitable portion of Eighteenmile WSA includes 7,000 acres of big game winter range), increasing the potential for disturbance or displacement of animals in seasonally important habitats and increasing the likelihood of habitat degradation or destruction. Increased OHV use restrictions are being implemented on other public (BLM and USFS) lands elsewhere in Idaho and in adjacent states. (continued)</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Yearlong or seasonal OHV use limitations on the majority of the Field Office area (94%) would increase the predictability of where OHV use would occur from a wildlife standpoint, making it more easily accommodated by various species. It would considerably increase the land area where wildlife could expect to be relatively free from this form of harassment, stress, and possible displacement. Habitat loss or degradation (e.g., spread of weeds, intolerable noise levels) due to OHV activity would also be reduced. (continued)</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> OHV considerations and effects for the northern portion of the Field Office area would generally be the same as Alternative A. However, the seasonal wildlife restrictions would not apply to the entire public lands acreage between Agency Creek and Kenney Creek, although the acreage of protected big game wintering areas would increase from 23,230 acres to about 38,230 acres for the Field Office area. It is expected that animals occupying these unprotected acres during the winter (e.g., deer, elk, antelope, sage grouse) would likely be subjected to increasing levels of motorized vehicle activity, with resultant increases in harassment, stress, and possibly displacement. This would lower their overall health, use of the area, and possibly, productivity. (continued)</p>	<p><i>OHV Management:</i> Impacts would be essentially the same as Alternative A, except OHV use limitations would apply to 99.5% of the Field Office area. Although fewer acres would be designated "closed" to OHV use, limiting OHV use within the Eighteenmile WSA to designated routes would still provide habitat protection for wildlife in that area.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS (continued)			
<p><i>OHV Management (continued):</i> Because the Salmon Field Office area has fewer OHV restrictions, it is likely to attract a majority of cross-country OHV use in the region. There would be potential for much higher amplitudes of stress, displacement, and habitat degradation factors than would otherwise occur. Wildlife population health, productivity, and distribution would likely suffer.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management (continued):</i> This would contribute to healthier, more productive wildlife populations, more normal distribution of species, and help assure continued representation of most species into the future. Alternative A expands the area of protected wildlife winter range in the Agency/Pattee area from 16,230 acres to about 25,904 acres by including all other public land between Agency and Kenney creeks within the seasonal OHV restriction. Seasonal restrictions in the Badger Springs and Tower Creek areas (13,619 acres) would also improve wildlife habitat security in those areas. Wildlife habitat would be fully protected from motorized vehicle disturbance or displacement impacts within the 28,442 acres designated "closed" to OHV use.</p>	<p><i>OHV Management (continued):</i> Alternative B allows for unrestricted OHV use throughout most of the southern portion of the Field Office area. As noted in the effects of Existing Management, portions of the Field Office that are designated "open" would receive increased OHV use as OHV limitations are imposed elsewhere in Idaho and adjacent states. OHV use within "open" areas would be expected to far exceed that expected in the absence of these restrictions elsewhere. Greatly increased adverse effects on all species would be expected in the form of stress, harassment, displacement, disruption of normal behavior patterns, and habitat degradation and destruction. Animals would potentially be exposed to some form of risk regardless of where they were at any given time in this southern area. In the long term, health, productivity, and presence of various species would be in constant jeopardy.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
WILDLIFE; THREATENED/ENDANGERED ANIMALS (continued)			
<i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Except for a few areas designated as VRM Class I or II (44,076 acres), nearly all (90%) of the Field Office area is designated as VRM Class III or IV. These two classes allow for the greatest visual alteration of the landscape. Depending on the nature and location of these visual intrusions, habitat for various species could be lost, normal movements disrupted, and there could be increased stress/harassment. Ultimately, species distribution and population viability could suffer.	<i>Visual Resource Management:</i> Reclassifying most of the planning area as VRM Class II (Retention) would potentially prove favorable to wildlife in the long-term. Class II management guidelines allow for much less change in the visual aspect of the landscape than the current classifications of Class III (Partial Retention) and Class IV (Modification). Increased protection and enhancement of a more “natural” landscape should help provide long-term habitat stability, thus promoting healthier, more productive populations of various wildlife species.	<i>Visual Resource Management:</i> VRM designations in Alternatives B and C are more favorable to wildlife than Existing Management, which contains about 50% VRM Class IV (Modification). However, portions (about 39%) of the Field Office area that are designated as VRM Class III (Partial Retention) would still have potential (albeit, likely limited) of adverse impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Class III allows for more visible intrusion on the landscape than Class II or I. Depending on the nature of that intrusion, species could realize elevated disturbance levels, disruption of normal behavior patterns, and loss of habitat quality, at least in a localized area.	
Threatened/Endangered Animals			
By law, listed species shall receive priority consideration in all activities occurring under existing management; issues related to listed species will be subject to consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Existing fire management would not provide for pro-active prescribed burning in support of listed species. Less restrictive VRM classifications and unrestricted OHV use over most of the Field Office area could, at least theoretically, eventually lead to conflict with a listed species. Should that unlikely event occur, management response would necessarily be reactive rather than pro-active.	By law, listed species shall receive priority consideration in all activities occurring under Alternative A; issues related to listed species will be subject to consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fire management would provide for pro-active prescribed burning in support of listed species. VRM and OHV designations would help prevent habitat degradation and various stress-related effects on wildlife throughout most of the Field Office area. This may theoretically benefit listed species (e.g., lynx) in some areas.	By law, listed species shall receive priority consideration in all activities occurring under Alternatives B and C; issues related to listed species will be subject to consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fire management would provide for pro-active prescribed burning in support of listed species. VRM and OHV management would help prevent habitat degradation and various stress-related effects on wildlife in areas that are both VRM Class I or II and designated “closed” or “limited” to OHV use. This may theoretically benefit listed species (e.g., lynx) in some areas.	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS			
<i>Air Quality</i>			
<p>The cumulative effects of prescribed fire should be within the limits set by National Ambient Air Quality Standards and standards for the prevention of significant deterioration in Class II areas, regardless of whether the State of Idaho, USFS, BLM and/or the public is involved with prescribed fire operations. The actual amount of burning from other agencies and individuals cannot be predicted, and will vary from season to season and year to year. Proposed projects that may affect Class I areas, Impact Zones, and/or non-attainment areas would be reviewed for potential impacts and modified to prevent adverse effects to those airsheds. For example, fire managers can schedule prescribed fire ignitions for conditions when winds will carry smoke away, or when smoke from this project plus emissions from other sources do not exceed air quality standards. Continuing a full suppression strategy in the Salmon Field Office and the majority of adjoining Salmon-Challis National Forest lands increases the likelihood that large, high intensity wildland fires will generate smoke emissions for several days to several weeks duration.</p>	<p>Proposed fire management would likely have a cumulative effect of smoke emissions from wildland, "wildland fire for resource benefit," and prescribed fires similar to that of existing management. Prescribed fires would not be allowed if smoke emissions will exceed air quality standards. Over time, a conditional fire suppression strategy on Salmon Field Office lands and portions of adjoining public lands (Challis Field Office BLM and wilderness areas managed by the Salmon-Challis National Forest) may reduce the possibility of large, high intensity wildfires.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Air Quality (continued)</i>			
The cumulative effects of OHV use on air quality would depend on how much use occurs on dirt roads versus sparsely vegetated areas, and how much use occurs on adjacent Forest Service, other agency, and private lands. There would be limited opportunity to mitigate dust impacts of cross-country OHV use under existing management.	The cumulative effects of OHV use on air quality would depend on how much use occurs on existing roads/designated routes, and how much use occurs on adjacent Forest Service, other agency, and private lands. Most dust impacts of OHV use on BLM lands should be mitigated through transportation planning.	The cumulative effects of OHV use on air quality would depend on how much use occurs on sparsely vegetated areas and dirt roads, and how much use occurs on adjacent Forest Service, other agency, and private lands. In the northern portion of the Field Office area, dust impacts of OHV use on BLM lands could generally be mitigated through transportation planning.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.
<i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas</i>			
No cumulative impacts were identified for any alternative.			

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Cultural Resources</i>			
<p>Retaining an "open" OHV designation for about 93% of the planning area, while adjacent Forests and public lands adopt more restrictive OHV management, would potentially focus and increase cross-country OHV use on the Salmon Field Office area. This would increase impacts to cultural resources, such as direct physical damage to fragile, surface-exposed cultural remains by OHV tracking and indirect impacts from erosion as a consequence of ground disturbances resulting from unrestricted OHV travel.</p> <p>Lack of continuity in management of the Lewis and Clark Trail (due to mixed land ownership and differences between the BLM's and USFS's management direction for the Trail area) may reduce the amount of management emphasis (such as interpretation) placed upon cultural resources along some portions of the Trail. Known cultural resources would be protected by law, however.</p>	<p>The likelihood of off-road vehicle impacts to fragile surface-exposed cultural resources would be reduced by an OHV designation of "limited" or "closed" across the entire Salmon Field Office. Cultural resource integrity would be maintained across a broader landscape, since similar vehicle use restrictions have been implemented on adjoining public and National Forest lands (e.g., BLM Challis Field Office, Salmon-Challis National Forest, Targhee National Forest).</p> <p>Proposed fire management actions in this amendment and those implemented by adjoining public lands (Salmon-Challis National Forest, BLM Challis Field Office) would, over time, reduce the threat of massive high intensity wildfires that can damage or obliterate many types of vulnerable cultural resources.</p> <p>Proposed management for the Lewis and Clark Trail SRMA (including visual resource management, OHV management, and minerals restrictions) is similar to management implemented by adjoining National Forests. These actions should increase physical protection for cultural and historic resources along all portions of the Trail's route through public lands within Lemhi County.</p>	<p>If portions of the motorized recreation lease area are relinquished to the BLM, this acreage would be incorporated into the SRMA boundary. So long as these incorporated lands would be reclaimed or otherwise managed according to SRMA objectives, there would be no cumulative impacts to cultural resources. An "open" designation for OHV travel and use across most of the southern portion of the Salmon Field Office may, over time, present the potential for increased and concentrated OHV impacts, as the northern half of the Field Office and adjacent public lands (Salmon-Challis and Targhee National Forests; Challis Field Office - BLM) implement more restrictive OHV management. Impacts would include direct physical damage to fragile, surface-exposed cultural remains by OHV tracking, as well as indirect impacts from erosion as a consequence of ground disturbances resulting from unrestricted OHV travel. Other cumulative effects under this proposal would be similar to those described in Alternative A.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts to cultural resources would be the same as Alternative A.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Economic and Social Values</i>			
No reasonably foreseeable social or economic cumulative impacts are anticipated under Existing Management.	Applying more constraining VRM and OHV designations throughout the Field Office may affect the mining sector of the local economy, by limiting both vehicular access and design options for mineral development to the point where a mining exploration or development proposal is not feasible. Coordinating Lewis and Clark Trail management with adjoining National Forests would affect local residents and the "tourism" sector of the economy by preserving and managing an important historical and cultural resource for residents' and visitors' long term enjoyment. Concentrating cross-country OHV use within the motorized recreation lease area may increase noise and dust impacts to local residents in that vicinity.	The mining sector may be affected in areas with both VRM Class I or II guidelines and OHV limitations or closures; vehicular access and design options for mineral development may be constrained to the point where a mining exploration or development proposal is not feasible. Coordinating Lewis and Clark Trail management with adjoining National Forests would affect local residents and the "tourism" sector of the economy by preserving and managing an important historical and cultural resource for residents' and visitors' long term enjoyment. Concentrating cross-country OHV use in the southern portion of the Field Office may, over time, increase the noise and visual intrusions upon residents of that area. This increase in OHV use is likely, because the southern portion of the Field Office is geographically proximate to population centers in Idaho Falls and Pocatello and other public lands adjacent to those communities have recently implemented increased OHV use restrictions.	Cumulative impacts would generally be the same as Alternative A. However, fewer acres would be designated as VRM Class I or II. As a result, fewer areas would have both VRM restrictions and OHV limitations that could affect the feasibility of future mineral development.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Existing and Potential Land Uses; Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access</i>			
<i>Existing Land Uses:</i> No cumulative impacts were identified.	<i>Existing Land Uses:</i> Cross-country motorized use within Lemhi County would be restricted to a much smaller land area, since adjacent public lands (Salmon-Challis National Forest; Challis Field Office - BLM; Targhee National Forest) have also implemented increased restrictions on cross-country motorized vehicle use.	<i>Existing Land Uses:</i> Cross-country motorized use within Lemhi County would be restricted to a smaller land area, since adjacent Federal lands (Salmon-Challis National Forest; Challis Field Office - BLM) have also implemented increased restrictions on cross-country motorized vehicle use.	<i>Existing Land Uses:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.
<i>Potential Land Uses:</i> No cumulative impacts were identified.	<i>Potential Land Uses:</i> Potential disposal of about 2,200 acres of public land through exchange could further reduce the amount of public land in the planning area, depending on the amount of non-BLM lands acquired in exchange for these 2,200 acres. Approximately 5,000 acres of public land were transferred into private ownership via the Birch Creek land exchange during the last five years. Most of this acreage involved small, isolated parcels with no public access or parcels that had been historically used along with the adjacent private land and were effectively managed as private.		
<i>Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access:</i> No cumulative impacts were identified.	<i>Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access:</i> Proposed OHV management, when combined with recent OHV travel limitations on adjacent Federal lands (Salmon-Challis National Forest, Challis Field Office - BLM, Targhee National Forest), would substantially reduce motorized access to public lands in Lemhi County.	<i>Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access:</i> Proposed OHV management, when combined with recent OHV travel limitations on adjacent Federal lands (Salmon-Challis National Forest, Challis Field Office - BLM, Targhee National Forest), would further reduce motorized access to public lands in Lemhi County.	<i>Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access:</i> Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Fisheries; Threatened/Endangered Fish; Wetlands/Riparian Zones; Water Quality</i>			
OHV use is unrestricted throughout most of the Field Office area. The combination of rapidly increasing popularity of off-highway vehicles and increasing restrictions on their use elsewhere in Idaho and adjacent states will likely promote disproportionate levels of OHV activity in the Field Office area. A direct relationship should be expected between this elevated OHV activity, a decline in watershed conditions, and potential negative impacts to wetland, riparian, and stream habitats. Ultimately, this may be reflected in reduced water quality and reduced health and productivity of some aquatic species.	During the past 15 years, OHV management, grazing management, noxious weed management, land exchanges and adjustments, and road and timber management have been reducing negative impacts to water quality and to wetland, riparian, and fisheries habitats. Management under Alternative A would continue this trend toward reducing human impacts to water quality and stream, wetland /riparian, and fisheries habitats.	Cumulative impacts for the northern portion of the Field Office area and the Eighteenmile WSA and Birch Creek Springs area would be the same as Alternative A. Cumulative impacts for the southern portion of the Field Office area designated "open" to OHV use would be the same as Existing Management.	Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A.
<i>Forest Resources</i>			
A past history of fire suppression and limited prescribed burning on Salmon Field Office and adjacent Forest Service lands has increased the potential for destructive wildfires that can extend across large blocks of forested lands. This risk of large, destructive wildfires would be expected to continue.	Over time, prescribed fire management implemented in the Salmon Field Office area and implemented or proposed on adjacent National Forest lands would be expected to increase the health and productivity of larger blocks of forested ecosystems.		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Mineral Resources</i>			
<p>The 1,820-acre proposed withdrawal along the Lewis and Clark Trail, combined with the proposed withdrawal of 220 acres of similar lands within the Salmon-Challis National Forest, is expected to have a minimal impact on locatable mineral development in the planning area. There are very few mining claims and very little active mineral development occurring in the area. There would be no cumulative impacts to leasable minerals or saleable minerals under existing management.</p>	<p>The 1,820-acre proposed withdrawal along the Lewis and Clark Trail, combined with the proposed withdrawal of 220 acres of similar lands within the Salmon-Challis National Forest, is expected to have a minimal impact on locatable mineral development in the planning area. There are very few mining claims and very little active mineral development occurring in the area. There would be no cumulative impacts to leasable minerals or saleable minerals. No known private soil pits or BLM community pits are proposed for closure (besides the River Bluffs pit site); therefore, no cumulative impacts to mineral material resources can be identified.</p> <p>Similar travel restrictions have been implemented on adjacent public and Forest Service lands (BLM-Challis Field Office and Salmon-Challis and Targhee National Forests). Mining activity, which is very low in the Salmon Field Office area, may be only slightly hindered by these restrictions because there is still opportunity to get authorization from the proper agency for travel off of designated routes to mining claims. A Notice of Plan of Operation, properly filed, allows for review of the proposed activities and would allow either denial of the request or require mitigation to be incorporated into permitted activities for protection of the public resources, such as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A, except there would be even less impact to mineral development due to fewer OHV restrictions in the southern portion of the Field Office area.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A, even though the proposed minerals restrictions would apply to approximately 4,840 acres.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Invasive/Non-native Species; Threatened/Endangered Plants; BLM Sensitive Plants</i>			
<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition:</i> Changes (within the last five to seven years) in livestock grazing management, especially of riparian areas, have improved the condition and trend of riparian vegetation and structure as well as stream channel morphology for a number of streams. The vegetative response of the uplands associated with these riparian areas has also probably improved. Continuing existing fire and OHV management may reduce the rate of (or possibly negate) some of the improvements gained through grazing management.	<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition:</i> Proposed management would complement and possibly accelerate the improvements to rangeland vegetation that are occurring as a result of recent changes in the Salmon Field Office's livestock grazing management and Lewis and Clark Trail management actions implemented by adjacent National Forests.	<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition:</i> In locations where both fire management and OHV management are implemented, proposed management would complement and possibly accelerate the improvements to rangeland vegetation that are occurring as a result of recent changes in the Salmon Field Office's livestock grazing management and Lewis and Clark Trail management on adjacent National Forests. In locations where "open" OHV use continues, this use may reduce the rate of vegetative response to grazing management actions.	<i>Rangeland Vegetation Types/Communities; Rangeland Resources; Rangeland Condition:</i> Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A.
<i>Invasive/Non-native Species:</i> The cumulative effects of noxious and exotic species management on other Federal, State, and private lands would help control weed infestations throughout the planning area.			
<i>Threatened/Endangered Plants; BLM Sensitive Plant Species:</i> No cumulative effects were identified for any alternative.			

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential; Wilderness</i>			
<p><i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential:</i> Existing SRMA, VRM, and OHV designations and minerals restrictions do little or nothing to protect much of the known and probable Lewis and Clark Trail route and associated cultural and recreation resources on public lands in the Field Office area. In addition, existing management for the Trail on public lands is generally inconsistent with the Trail's management on adjoining National Forests. The quality of the recreation experience and cultural and heritage tourism related to the Trail is reduced because of these management inadequacies and inconsistencies.</p> <p>Existing visual resource management for the Field Office is generally less restrictive than management of adjacent Salmon-Challis National Forest lands. As a result, developments on lower elevation Salmon Field Office lands may be even more noticeable to recreationists, since the scenic background of higher elevation, Forest lands would be retained. (continued)</p>	<p><i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential:</i> Potential disposal of the Agency Creek Recreation Site would further reduce the number of camping areas in the Agency Creek drainage, since the Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark is proposed for closure to camping, and the area's topography and land ownership pattern reduce the number of suitable undeveloped sites. Proposed visual resource management, when combined with visual resource management on adjacent Forest Lands, would preserve more of the scenic landscape valuable to many recreationists. Potential acquisition of portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail and related recreational and historical values would increase the portion of the Trail in public ownership, and provide a longer, contiguous Trail section that is easier to manage for its recreational and other values. Proposing Trail management that is consistent with the Salmon-Challis and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests' management would further improve the value of the Trail to recreationists interested in cultural and heritage tourism. (continued)</p>	<p><i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential:</i> Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A, except as follows: Proposed visual resource management and visual resource management of adjacent Salmon-Challis National Forest lands would generally retain scenic views along major travel routes. Proposed OHV designations, when combined with OHV management on public lands in the region, could tend to concentrate OHV use in the "open" areas of the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the southern portion of the Salmon Field Office area. Use conflicts and resource damage would likely continue to occur in these areas and may increase.</p>	<p><i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential:</i> Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A, except as follows: Proposed visual resource management and visual resource management of adjacent Salmon-Challis National Forest lands would generally retain scenic views along major travel routes.</p>

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential; Wilderness</i> (continued)			
<p><i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential</i> (continued): OHV restrictions implemented or proposed on other public lands within the region (Salmon-Challis National Forest, Challis Field Office - BLM, Targhee National Forest) will likely cause OHV users to seek public lands "open" to OHV use, such as the Salmon Field Office area. This could eventually lead to an even faster increase in OHV use in the Field Office area, increasing recreation user conflicts, impacts to the landscape, and the proliferation of new vehicle ways.</p>	<p><i>Recreation Use, Existing and Potential</i> (continued): Designating the entire Field Office as "closed" or "limited" to OHV use may concentrate OHV use on the R&PP lease site and "open" areas on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, reducing the amount of OHV use in the remainder of the Salmon Field Office area. The amendment's designations would further reduce the amount of public land available for cross-country vehicle travel by recreationists in this region, since adjacent public lands have also limited or closed many areas to OHV use.</p>		
<p><i>Wilderness:</i> OHV restrictions on National Forest lands adjacent to the Eighteenmile WSA have helped to protect wilderness values of the area. However, the Salmon Field Office's OHV management has not prevented unauthorized motorized use within the WSA. Proliferation of unauthorized vehicle ways would be expected to continue as long as some vehicle access into the WSA is permitted. Adjacent National Forest lands could eventually be affected by unauthorized access from BLM lands, as this proliferation of unauthorized use escalates.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness:</i> Closing the Eighteenmile WSA to motorized vehicle use should halt the proliferation of unauthorized vehicle ways within the WSA. Since adjacent National Forest lands are managed with OHV restrictions or closures, a larger continuous area of public lands would be managed for values such as solitude and naturalness.</p>	<p><i>Wilderness:</i> Allowing limited motorized access into the WSA on designated routes would still present some risk of unauthorized off-road use (as described under Existing Management). However, only a limited portion of the WSA would be accessible by designated routes. The remainder of the WSA and adjacent National Forest lands managed with OHV restrictions and closures would offer a more contiguous land base with attributes of solitude and naturalness.</p>	

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Soils</i>			
Recent changes in grazing management in the Salmon Field Office area have been implemented to improve rangeland health, including soils condition. Improvements in soils condition will likely occur more slowly under existing fire and OHV management than under the proposed amendment alternatives.	Proposed management, when combined with on-going grazing management actions on Salmon Field Office lands, would gradually improve soil condition.	Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A, except soil disturbance would continue to occur, and may expand, in areas designated "open" to OHV use. An increase in soil disturbance in "open" OHV use areas would be expected since the southern portion of the Field Office area would likely receive increased cross-country OHV use as OHV limitations and closures are implemented on surrounding public lands (Salmon-Challis and Targhee National Forests, Challis Field Office - BLM).	Cumulative impacts to soils would be the same as Alternative A.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Tribal Treaty Rights; Indian Trust Resources; Native American Religious Concerns</i>			
<p>Existing fire, OHV, and visual resource management has not improved, and may have degraded, the condition, quality, and abundance of some trust resources. However, changes in rangeland, riparian, and fisheries habitat management implemented on public lands during the past 5 to 8 years have improved habitat conditions for some trust resources (some fish, wildlife and plant species) in portions of the Salmon Field Office area.</p> <p>Maintaining cross-country vehicle access on about 93% of the Salmon Field Office area would maintain a high level of motorized access to this portion of Indian tribes' traditional lands, even as motorized access is being limited on other portions of Indian tribes' traditional lands (such as the Challis Field Office - BLM).</p> <p>The land disturbance impacts of existing OHV and visual resource management in the Salmon Field Office area, when combined with visual intrusions from actions on adjacent public and private lands may, over time, degrade visual resources which are important to Indian tribes.</p>	<p>The amendments to OHV use in the Field Office area would reduce incidents of impact to those treaty values and sacred places susceptible to damage by OHVs traveling "cross-country" on public lands. Similar "limited" management of OHV access on adjoining public and National Forest lands would lead to long term preservation of the visual setting and physical character of the diversity of natural landscapes for generations to come. Applying fire as a tool to manage the ecology of the landscape would help restore and sustain the natural health of the public lands, helping to ensure that important treaty rights resources will be sustained and managed for future generations. Similar prescribed fire strategies (combined with other appropriate forest management practices) undertaken on adjoining BLM and Forest lands would broaden and unify this management emphasis.</p>		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
Visual Resources			
Existing visual resource management, along with the visual resource management for adjacent Forest Service lands, would tend to gradually degrade the scenic quality of the foothills (visual foreground and middleground) along the Lemhi and Salmon River valleys by allowing major modification of the characteristic landscape.	Alternative A, along with the management prescribed on adjacent National Forest lands, would tend to conserve more of the characteristic landscape of the region by limiting the acceptable amount of change to the characteristic landscape. This alternative would greatly increase the emphasis of visual management and the conservation of the scenic quality of the region.	Alternative B or C, along with the management prescribed on adjacent National Forest lands, would tend to conserve the characteristic landscape of visual foreground areas and areas with scenic vistas, while allowing for some modification of the landscape in seldom seen areas. These alternatives would also tend to emphasize visual management and conservation of scenic quality of the region, but would have some areas of less scenic emphasis.	
Wildlife; Threatened/Endangered Animals			
Currently, the greatest long-term cumulative impacts to wildlife habitat in the Field Office area are due to lack of fire under current fire management, livestock grazing, and human disturbance. Existing fire management (with little opportunity for prescribed fire) will continue to maintain habitats in steady state and later seral conditions. It is believed that small tree density has increased and has caused a decrease in forbs, grasses, and shrubs in forested environments and created stress and potential for large losses of timbered habitat due to fire. Likewise, lack of natural fire and long-term grazing have caused structural changes in sagebrush systems and are believed to have caused an increase in sagebrush density and a decrease in grass/forb quantity and quality. These conditions are expected to continue under existing management.	These alternatives would allow for the development of a fire plan which would involve an interdisciplinary team analyzing all effects on a sub-basin level, and then at the project level. This would allow areas that would benefit from a more diversified habitat structure to be modified through prescribed fire, while protecting those areas with species that would be negatively impacted by fire. The Interior Columbia River Basin has lost significant acres of sagebrush habitat types, both through private development and through loss to large fires and the invasion of noxious weeds that has followed. The encroachment of noxious weeds from private land and roads through various avenues is also decreasing the quality of habitat in both sagebrush ecosystems and in other habitat types. As the fire plan is developed these concerns would be taken into account in determining how fire can be used to improve habitat and to prevent loss of important habitat types. Using fire to produce a mosaic of habitats and allowing short term rest from grazing to occur on those lands will improve habitats for various wildlife species.		

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
<i>Wildlife; Threatened/Endangered Animals</i> (continued)			
OHV use is unrestricted throughout most of the Field Office area. The combination of rapidly increasing popularity of OHVs and increasing restrictions on their use elsewhere in Idaho and adjacent states is expected to promote disproportionate levels of OHV activity in the Salmon Field Office area. A direct relationship between this elevated OHV activity and decline in suitability of the area for many wildlife species is expected. Ultimately, this may be reflected in reduced health and productivity of some species and, under a worst-case scenario, possible elimination of some species - at least at a local level. Species with limited mobility (e.g., many reptiles, amphibians, and rodents) and species more or less confined due to life-cycle needs (e.g., nesting birds) would be particularly sensitive to high levels of OHV activity. OHV use is a primary vector for noxious weed encroachment on public lands.	The various National Forests adjacent to the Salmon Field Office area have been managing the increase in human-related activities, in part, through road closures, designated routes, and seasonal closures of big game wintering areas (e.g., Wagonhammer and Pattee/Kenney Creek). This alternative complements those efforts and helps provide improved habitat conditions. Impacts as previously described in this alternative would be conferred over a much larger scale. Additionally, since most of the more mobile species move freely between administrative boundaries, they will realize more consistency and predictability of habitat conditions as they move from one area to another. OHV limitations along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and within the Lewis and Clark Special Recreation Management Areas will allow wildlife to use migration corridors without the disturbance from human presence that can currently happen with the area open to OHV use. The Continental Divide is considered a major travel corridor between the Yellowstone ecosystem and the Central Idaho ecosystem.	Cumulative impacts in the northern portion of the Field Office area, the Eighteenmile WSA, and the Birch Creek Springs area would be the same as Alternative A, except for the slightly smaller area subject to seasonal wildlife restrictions. Cumulative impacts for areas designated "open" to OHV use would be the same as noted for Existing Management.	The cumulative impacts of proposed OHV management would be the same as Alternative A.

Existing Management	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (continued)			
Wildlife; Threatened/Endangered Animals (continued)			
Continued “open” OHV use would allow noxious weeds to continue degrading habitat for native wildlife species. The current level of fire suppression, grazing, and human disturbance would continue to allow noxious weeds to encroach on native communities. The cumulative impacts would lead to continued degradation of wildlife habitat.	OHV limitations will limit one vector of noxious weed spread on public lands. This will allow a fire management plan to better manage outcomes of prescribed fires by limiting those sources of weed spread.		
IMPACTS SUMMARY:			
No significant individual or cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of any alternative.			

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Persons and Agencies Consulted: Scoping and other public participation efforts for the proposed amendment included a Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* (February 25, 2000); a general scoping mailing (February 22, 2000) to more than 300 individuals, businesses, tribal representatives, and local, state, and federal agencies; news releases to local and regional newspapers; an "open house" style public meeting (March 27, 2000); a meeting with representatives and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (March 22, 2000); and a mailing of the Public and Tribal Review Copy Amendment and EA to more than 300 individuals, businesses, tribal representatives, and local, state, and federal agencies (November 22, 2000). Briefings and/or coordination meetings were held with the Lemhi County OHV Subcommittee, Lemhi County Commissioners, Mayor of Salmon, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Land Use Policy Commission. All oral and written comments received as a result of scoping efforts, briefings/coordination meetings, and the Review Copy EA mailing were considered during development of the proposed amendment and alternatives.

Preparers: The following managers and staff participated in development of the amendment alternatives and Environmental Assessment.

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William Baer	Fire Management, Forest Resources
Mark Bonner	Rangeland Vegetation, Soils
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Vincent Guyer	Mapping, GIS
Eric Hagen	Fire Management
Keith Johnson	Fire Management, Forest Resources
Michael Liner	Recreation Use, Visual Resources, Wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Stephanie Snook	Lands, Mineral Resources
Jude Trapani	Fisheries, Threatened/Endangered Fish, Water Quality, Wetland/Riparian Zones
Charles Tuss	Air Quality, Fire Management
Steven Wright	Cultural Resources, Tribal Treaty Rights, Indian Trust Resources; Native American Religious Concerns

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GLOSSARY

List of Acronyms.

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern.	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act.
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act.
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act.	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service.
ATV	All-terrain vehicle.	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places.
AUM	Animal unit month.	NSO	No surface occupancy.
BLM	Bureau of Land Management.	OHV	Off-highway vehicle, sometimes called off-road vehicle (ORV).
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations.	PILT	Payment in lieu of taxes.
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality.	R&PP	Recreation & Public Purposes (Act).
DRMP	Draft Resource Management Plan.	RMP	Resource Management Plan.
EA	Environmental Assessment.	RNA	Research Natural Area.
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area.	SOP	Standard operating procedure.
ESA	Endangered Species Act.	SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area.
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.	USFS	United States Forest Service.
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act.	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game.	VRM	Visual resource management.
IDSL	Idaho Department of State Lands.	WSA	Wilderness Study Area.
MFP	Management Framework Plan.		

Glossary Definitions.

Activity planning - A level of BLM planning where objectives are established and a plan of activities to meet those objectives is developed. Examples include Integrated Resource Activity Plans, Habitat Management Plans, and Allotment Management Plans. (Also see *project planning*.)

Allotment - An area of land designated and managed for grazing of livestock; may contain BLM, other Federally managed, private, and/or State lands.

Allowable cut (allowable sale quantity) - The amount of timber that can be harvested on an annual or decadal basis consistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

Anadromous fish - Those species of fish that mature in the sea and migrate into freshwater streams to spawn; *e.g.*, salmon, steelhead trout.

Animal unit month (AUM) - The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow unit or its equivalent (one horse or five sheep, all over six months old) for one month (approximately 800 pounds of forage).

Aquatic - Living or growing in or on the water.

Archaeological resources - Sites, areas, structures, objects, or other material evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities.

Archaeological site - A geographic location containing structures, artifacts, material remains, and/or other evidence of past human activity.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) - Acreage within BLM public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or visual values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. The identification of a potential ACEC shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands. (43 CFR 1601.0-5(a))

Back Country Byway - A vehicle route that traverses scenic corridors utilizing secondary or back country road systems. National Back Country Byways are designated by the type of road and vehicle needed to travel the byway.

Beneficial use - Any of the various uses which may be made of the water, including, but not limited to, domestic water supply, industrial water supply, agricultural water supply, navigation, recreation in and on the water, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. A beneficial use is identified based

upon actual use, the ability of a water to support a non-existing use either now or in the future, and its likelihood of being used in a given manner. (Idaho Water Quality Standards - IDAPA 16.01.02.100)

Big game - Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource; includes elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep.

Catastrophic Fire - A large-scale, high-severity fire which has long-lasting or detrimental effects on certain resources, such as private or historic structures, threatened or endangered species habitat, or cultural resources.

Commercial forest land - All forest land that is capable of yielding at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year of commercial coniferous tree species.

Community - An ecological boundary defined by the species and species interactions which occur. (For example, a forest community contains those species which require or prefer a forested habitat for one or more biological processes (foraging, mating, nesting/denning, rearing, etc.).

Corridor - An avenue for movement across the landscape. (For example, forested land adjacent to a river may serve as a corridor for species that require forested cover.) In the natural landscape, corridors are generally contiguous avenues of preferred habitat. In a human altered landscape, corridors may be less preferred but still functional avenues. Human activity may sometimes create corridors where none previously existed (*e.g.*, disturbed areas along roadsides which are corridors for weed dispersal, or shrubby fence lines which are corridors for small mammals and some birds).

Crucial habitat (or key habitat) - Describes a particular seasonal range or other habitat component (*e.g.*, winter or winter/yearlong range for big game animals; riparian habitat for riparian-dependent species; and wintering and/or nesting areas for sage grouse) which is a primary determining factor in a population's ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level (theoretically at or above population objectives).

Cultural property - A definite location of past human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. Includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and possible religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups. Concrete, material places and things that are classified, ranked, and managed through a system of inventory, evaluation, planning, protection, and utilization.

Cultural resource - According to BLM Manual 8100, Release 8-38: a general term meaning any cultural property or traditional lifeway value. Also, the physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, petroglyphs, etc.) and conceptual content or context (as a setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events as a sacred area of native peoples, etc.) of an area.

Cultural resource inventory classes - An inventory system used to identify and assess cultural resource values on BLM public lands. *Class I:* an overview document discussing the known resources of a particular region and defining research goals and questions from known data; primarily a chronicle of past land uses. *Class II:* professionally conducted, statistically based random samples designed to help characterize the probable density, diversity, and distribution of cultural resources in a large area. *Class III:* inventories conducted at 30 meter intervals or less to provide for intensive coverage over an entire project area, rather than a randomly selected sample area.

Developed recreation site - A site developed primarily to accommodate specific intensive use activities or groupings of activities such as camping, picnicking, boating, swimming, winter sports, etc. These sites include permanent facilities which require continuing management commitment and regular maintenance, such as roads, trails, toilets and other facilities needed to accommodate recreation use over the long term. (BLM Manual)

Disturbance - Any management activity that has the potential to accelerate erosion or mass movement. Also, any other activity that may tend to disrupt the normal movement or habits of a particular wildlife or plant species.

Diversity - The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area.

Dormant stage - A plant growth stage occurring after annual growth and reproduction when the plant prepares for winter.

Ecosystem - An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment; for example, a marsh, watershed, or lake ecosystem.

Ecotone - A relatively narrow, transition or junction zone between two or more different plant communities (ecosystems), such as the zone between a forested area and a sagebrush flat.

Edge - The site where different plant communities, successional stages, or vegetative condition classes meet and a change in flora, fauna, and microclimate occur. For example: the meadow/forest interface along the boundary of a timber harvest clearcut; the boundary between riparian vegetation (e.g., willows) and sagebrush-grassland.

Effects (impacts) - The biological, physical, social, or economic consequences resulting from a proposed action. Effects may be adverse (detrimental) or beneficial, and direct, indirect, or cumulative. *Direct effects* are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. *Indirect effects* are also caused by the action, but occur at a later time or further removed in distance. *Cumulative effects* include incremental effects of the proposed action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes the other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Endangered species - Any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and has been officially listed as endangered by the Secretary of Interior or Commerce under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. A final rule for the listing has been published in the *Federal Register*.

Environment - The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A concise public document which complies with NEPA law and regulation and analyzes the effects of a proposed action. An EA briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact, aids an agency's compliance with NEPA when an EIS is unnecessary, and facilitates preparation of an EIS when necessary.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A detailed public document which complies with NEPA law and regulation. An EIS describes a major Federal action which significantly affects the quality of the human environment, provides alternatives to the proposed action, and analyzes the effects of the proposed action.

Erosion - The wearing away of the land's surface by water, wind, ice or other physical processes. It includes detachment, transport, and deposition of soil or rock fragments.

Existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails - For Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), "existing" refers to roads, vehicle ways, and trails which existed as of the Idaho Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision (November 1980). For the remainder of the Salmon Field Office, "existing" refers to (a) roads, vehicle ways, and trails which are visible on 1993-1994 aerial photos of the Field Office area. Also see *road*; *vehicle way*; and *trail*.

Expenditures - The use of local and non-local sources of monies designated for local government public goods and services such as road and bridge maintenance, court operations, public safety, health and mental health services, solid waste disposal, welfare, and education.

Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) - BLM administrative units where recreation management is only one of several management objectives and where limited commitment of resources is required to provide extensive and unstructured types of recreation activities. ERMAs may contain recreation sites. These areas consist of the remainder of land areas not included in Special Recreation Management Areas.

Fire use - the combination of wildland fire use and prescribed fire application to meet resource objectives.

Fire suppression - All work and activities associated with fire extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

Full suppression consists of management designed to aggressively suppress all new fires on or threatening public land.

Conditional suppression consists of management which allows fires to continue to burn without active suppression activity, as long as they are burning within prescribed limits, including fire location, weather conditions, forces available, and fire size. Monitoring of the fire would be done throughout the fire's duration, and direct suppression would be undertaken if any one condition is exceeded.

Firewood cutting - Cutting firewood for home or off-site use, usually in high volume (e.g., cord, pickup load).

Flowering stage - A plant growth stage occurring when the reproductive portion of the plant begins to emerge.

Forage - All browse and non-woody plants that are available to wildlife for grazing or harvested for feeding livestock. Normally includes only the current year's growth.

Forb - Any herbaceous plant species other than those in the *Gramineae* (grasses), *Cyperaceae* (sedges), and *Juncaceae* (rushes) families; fleshy leaved plants.

Foreground-middleground Distance Zone - The area visible from a travel route, use area, or other observation point to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

Forest land - Ten or more acres of land capable of being ten percent stocked by forest tree species and not currently

developed for non-timber use. Lands developed for non-timber use may include areas for crops, improved pasture, residential or administrative areas, improved roads of any width, and adjoining road clearings or powerline clearings of any width.

Goal - The desired state or condition that a resource management policy or program is designed to achieve (usually not quantifiable and may not have a specific completion date).

Grazing permit - Under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act, a document authorizing the use of the public lands within grazing districts for the purpose of grazing livestock.

Grazing preference (total grazing preference) - The total number of animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock grazing on public lands, apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee. The *active preference* and *suspended preference* are combined to make up the total grazing preference. *Active preference* is that portion of the total preference for which grazing use may be authorized. *Suspended preference* is that portion of the recognized grazing preference which is placed in a suspended category because the preference exceeds the present available livestock grazing capacity.

Guzzler - A water development for wildlife that relies on rainfall or snowmelt to recharge it, rather than springs or streams. Usually used where no other sources of wildlife water exist.

Habitat - A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species, group of species, or large community. For example, major habitat components for wildlife are food, water, living space, and cover.

Habitat type - The aggregate of land area potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax (Steele, *et. al.* 1981). Each habitat type is named for the climax tree species and understory species that would eventually occupy a site at climax, under ideal conditions. In reality, habitat types indicate the potential of a site, for many factors (e.g., fire interval, climate, soil productivity, aspect, percent slope) will determine the vegetation that occupies a site over time.

Herbaceous - Plants that are green and leaflike in appearance or texture and have characteristics typical of an herb, as distinguished from a woody plant.

Historic property - A term used in the National Historic Preservation Act that refers to a cultural resource which is considered eligible to be listed or is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Integrated pest management - The use of several techniques (*i.e.*, fire, grazing, herbicide, biological agents) as one system to gain control of a pest species.

Interdisciplinary (ID) team planning process - A process of assembling a team of staff resource specialists who become fully involved in a discussion of issues, problems, conflicts and concerns; the development of alternatives; analysis of environmental effects; and development of final recommendations for management decision. From time to time, members of the general public or specialists from outside groups or agencies may participate with ID teams.

Interpretive site - A site where the local history, environment, and/or current land use practices are explained through signs and brochures or other media.

Issue - See *planning issue*.

Key ecosystem indicator species - Species selected for management as components of a system which is being managed or monitored. These species are chosen because they are indicators of the health of the entire system. Key ecosystem indicator species may be: 1) wide-ranging species for whom landscape level patterns and processes are very important; 2) species dependent on many other species (such as predators at the top of the food chain); 3) common species that are important basic components of the system; or 4) rare or unique species that are especially sensitive to changes in the system.

Land transfer - The sale, exchange, or other conveyance of land from one owner to another, especially under the authority of land disposal laws such as the Desert Land Act, Carey Act, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, FLPMA, etc.

Leasable minerals - Minerals subject to lease by the Federal government under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, including coal, oil, gas, phosphate, sodium, potassium, oil shale, sulphur, and geothermal steam. Yearly lease rentals and production royalties are paid to the Federal government. In this RMP, leasable minerals are further categorized as either fluid energy leasable minerals (oil, gas, and geothermal resources) or non-energy leasable minerals.

Lethal Fire - A descriptor of fire response and effect in forested ecosystems, where high severity fire may burn throughout the overstory and understory. Lethal fires typically consume large woody surface fuels, and may consume the entire duff layer, essentially destroying the stand of trees.

Listed species - Those plant, animal, or fish species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service as "threatened" or "endangered."

Locatable minerals - Generally, the metallic minerals subject to development specified in the General Mining Law of 1872. Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold, silver, copper, and iron, and all other minerals not subject to lease or sale (limestone, talc, gypsum, etc.).

Mineral withdrawal - Closure of public land to specific mineral development laws such as the Mining Law of 1872 and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. Withdrawal of public lands is subject to valid existing rights, such as valid mining claims and mineral leases which precede the withdrawal.

Mitigation - An action to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, compensate, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Monitoring - The systematic gathering of data to determine whether progress is being made in achieving land use objectives or goals.

Motorized vehicle - Any form of motorized transportation. (Also see *off-highway vehicle*.)

Multiple use - The management of the public lands and their various resource values so they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources...with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output (FLPMA 1976).

National Register of Historic Places - A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

Nonattainment area - An airshed in which one or more air quality standards are not being met.

Non-game - Species of animals which are not managed as a sport hunting resource.

Non-point source - A source of water pollution which cannot be attributed to a specific point or small area, but is generated on a wider scale from a larger land area. Nonpoint source pollutants may include sediment, nutrient, chemical, or bacteria loadings to a body of water. Nonpoint sources of these pollutants may include activities such as grazing, mining, timber harvesting, high use recreation, and road construction and maintenance.

Nonsuitable WSA - A Wilderness Study Area that has been studied by the BLM and recommended to the President for uses other than Wilderness.

No surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation - A stipulation which prohibits construction or placement of energy mineral development facilities (buildings, roads, drilling equipment, etc.) on an area of land surface. An NSO stipulation is often attached to energy mineral leases for particular tracts of land leased for energy mineral development. (See, *Attachment 10: Leasable Minerals Stipulations*, pp. 113-121 for other energy minerals stipulations specific to this RMP.)

Noxious weed - Any plant designated as noxious by the director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture.

Objectives - Planned results to be achieved within a stated time period; objectives are measurable, quantifiable, subordinate to goals, and narrower in scope.

Off-highway vehicle (off road vehicle) - A motorized vehicle which can travel off of constructed road surfaces, such as a motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, four-wheel drive vehicle, or snowmobile. (Also see *motorized vehicle*.)

Off-highway vehicle use designations -

Open: Motorized vehicle travel is permitted year-long anywhere within an area designated as "open" to OHV use, if the vehicle is operated responsibly.

Limited: Motorized vehicle travel within specified areas and/or on designated routes, roads, vehicle ways, or trails is subject to restrictions.

Closed: Motorized vehicle travel is prohibited in the area. Access by means other than motorized vehicle is permitted.

Old growth - Forested land that is comprised of mature trees whose vigor is being maintained or is declining. Old growth is characterized by plants and animals which prefer or depend upon a climax or late successional habitat. An old growth forest differs significantly from a younger forest in structure, ecological function, and species composition. Old growth characteristics begin to appear in unmanaged conifer forests at 175-250 years of age. These characteristics include (a) a patchy, multi-layered canopy with trees of several age classes; (b) the presence of large living trees; (c) the presence of larger standing dead trees (snags) and down woody debris; and (d) the presence of species and functional processes which are representative of the potential natural community.

Paleontological resource - Fossilized remains of vertebrate, invertebrate, or botanical life forms associated with past geologic periods.

Patented claim - A mining operation with an official document conferring a right or privilege to have sole use of that operation.

Perennial stream - A stream that flows continuously and is generally associated with a water table in the areas through which it flows.

Planning issue - Defined by BLM Manual 1601 as a matter of controversy or dispute regarding a resource management activity or land use that is well defined and/or topically discrete, and involves alternatives among which to choose or decide.

Prehistoric site - A geographic location where Native American cultural activities took place during a period when Native Americans were not yet influenced by contact with historic non-native culture(s).

Prescribed burn (prescribed fire) - Intentional use of fire, whether by planned or unplanned ignition, to accomplish planned objectives.

Prescription - Management practices which are selected and scheduled for application in a specific area in order to attain goals and objectives.

Pristine condition - The ecological condition of that plant community assumed to have existed prior to the influence of European man.

Project planning - The most detailed level of BLM planning which identifies the design, placement, and implementation of specific projects. (Also see *activity planning*.)

Proposed species - Species that have been officially proposed for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. A proposed rule has been published in the *Federal Register*.

Public - Affected or interested individuals, including consumer organizations, public land resource users, corporations and other business entities, environmental organizations and other special interest groups, and officials of State, local, and Indian tribal governments (43 CFR 1601.0-5(h)).

Public land - Any land and interest in land (e.g., mineral estate) owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos (43 CFR 1601.0-5(i)). May include public domain or acquired lands in any combination.

Range improvement - A structure, excavation, treatment, or development to rehabilitate, protect, or improve range conditions on public lands.

RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II) - The second national inventory and assessment of roadless and undeveloped areas within the National Forests and

Grasslands, documented in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement of the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation*, January, 1979.

Rare species - Plant or animal species which are uncommon to a specific area. All threatened, endangered, and sensitive species can be considered rare, but the converse is not true.

Regeneration - The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural or artificial means. Also the young tree crop (seedlings, saplings) itself.

Research Natural Area (RNA) - An area in as near a natural condition as possible, which exemplifies typical or unique vegetation and associated biotic, soil, geologic, and aquatic features. The area is set aside to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes; commercial and general public use is not allowed.

Restoration - Holistic actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve desired, healthy, and functioning conditions and processes. Generally refers to the process of enabling the system to resume its resiliency to disturbances (BLM-USFS, ICBEMP, May 1997).

Right-of-way - A permit or easement which authorizes the use of public lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, etc.; also, the lands covered by such an easement or permit.

Riparian - Of, pertaining to, situated, or dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water.

Riparian area - The area between permanently saturated wetland and upland areas, which exhibits vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent surface or subsurface water influence. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennial and intermittent streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that do not exhibit the presence of vegetation dependent upon free water in the soil.

Riparian ecosystem - A transition between the aquatic ecosystem and adjacent upland terrestrial ecosystem which is identified by soil characteristics and distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbounded water.

Riparian area condition classes - Riparian areas may be classified in one of three conditions: proper functioning, non-functional, or functional-at-risk.

Road - A vehicle route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.

Saleable minerals - High volume, low value mineral resources, including common varieties of rock, clay, decorative stone, sand, and gravel. Specifically, mineral materials made available for sale under provisions of the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

Salmonid - A member of the family of fish species *Salmonidae*; includes trout and salmon species.

Sawtimber - Live trees usually nine inches DBH or larger that can be used for lumber.

Scoping - The process of obtaining input from the ID team, resource staff and management, and the public (including the general public and relevant government agencies, Indian tribes, organizations, and interest groups) in order to determine 1) which issues are significant to the RMP and 2) the scope of issues to be addressed in the alternatives.

Section 106 Consultation - Discussions between a Federal agency official and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Officer, and other interested parties concerning historic properties that could be affected by a specific undertaking. The consultation process is outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, and codified in 36 CFR 800.

Sediment - Solid material that originates mostly from disintegrating rocks and is transformed by, suspended in, or deposited by water. Sediment includes chemical and biochemical precipitates and decomposed organic material.

Seep (or spring) - A saturated zone at or near the ground surface where voids in the rock or soil are filled with water at greater than atmospheric pressure. Seep or spring sites are typically characterized by riparian vegetation and soil formed in the presence of water. Water may or may not be discharging from these sites, depending on the underlying geology, water source, season, or long term climatic trends. A seep is a small spring.

Sensitive species - Plant or animal species designated by the BLM State Director as sensitive, usually in cooperation with the State agency responsible for managing the species. Sensitive species are those (a) which are under status review by the USFWS or NMFS; or (b) whose numbers are declining so rapidly that Federal listing may become necessary; or (c) with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or (d) inhabiting ecological refugia of other specialized or unique habitats. (BLM Manual 6840)

Special status species - Species which have official recognition of rarity or decline, including species identified in the *Federal Register* as "threatened," "endangered," "proposed," or "candidate," and species listed as "sensitive" by a state or the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM sensitive species list for the Salmon Field Office

BLM generally follows the list of State of Idaho sensitive species recognized by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. (Also see *threatened species*, *endangered species*, *proposed species*, *candidate species*, *sensitive species*.)

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - BLM administrative units established to direct recreation program priorities, including the allocation of funding and personnel, to those public lands where a commitment has been made to provide specific recreation activities and experience opportunities on a sustained yield basis.

Species diversity - The variation in numbers and kinds of species and the complexity of their interaction within a community.

Spring - See *seep*.

Stand (of timber) - A plant community of trees which possess uniformity in vegetation type, age class, vigor, size class, and stocking class and which is distinguishable from adjacent forest communities.

Stand-replacing Fire - A fire that kills most or all of a stand of timber, sagebrush, etc.

Suitable WSA - A Wilderness Study Area that has been studied by the BLM and recommended to the President as suitable for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Threatened species - A plant or animal species which is likely to become endangered (see *endangered species*) within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and is officially listed as threatened by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. A final rule for the listing has been published in the *Federal Register*.

Timber harvest - Cutting of trees for commercial use as sawlogs, house logs, posts and poles, pulpwood, or any other commercial use where the forest products are removed from the site.

Traditional lifeway value - The quality of being useful in or important to the maintenance of a specified social and/or cultural group's traditional systems or religious belief, cultural practice, or social interaction, not closely identified with definite locations.

Trail - Any designated, designed, and constructed pathway suitable for one or more of the following methods of travel: foot, packstock, cross country ski, mountain bike, motorcycle, or all terrain vehicle (ATV).

Treaty - A formal agreement between two or more nations, relating to peace alliance, trade, etc. Treaties between the United States government and Indian tribes are formal contracts between two sovereigns which were signed by authorized representatives and ratified by two-

thirds of the U.S. Senate.

Treaty rights - Those provisions negotiated in treaties between the U.S. government and Indian tribes which retain certain "rights" for the Indian tribes, such as hunting and fishing rights, land rights, water rights, etc.

Trespass - The use of public land without authority, resulting from an innocent, willful, or negligent act.

Trust resources - Those resources (e.g., deer, elk, fish) located on public lands which Native American tribes have the right to take under treaty.

Trust responsibility - The sovereign status of Indian tribes and special provisions of treaty language set Native Americans apart from other U.S. populations, and define a special level of Federal agency responsibility. Most of the Federal lands were ceded to the U.S. government through treaties with the Indian tribes. By retaining certain rights on these lands (see *Glossary*: treaty rights), the Indian tribes, in essence, placed their lands in the trust of the U.S. government, giving the U.S. government "trust responsibility" to manage those ceded lands for the benefit of the tribes' treaty rights.

Upland - The portion of land located away from riparian or floodplain areas.

Utilization - The proportion of current year's vegetative growth consumed or destroyed by grazing animals, usually expressed as a percentage.

Vehicle way (way) - A route established and maintained solely by the passage of motor vehicles.

Visual resource management classes (VRM classes) -

Class I - Preservation. The objective of this class is to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. Natural ecological changes and very limited management activity are allowed. Any contrast created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. It is applied to wilderness areas, some natural areas, wild portions of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other similar situations where management activities are to be restricted.

Class II - Retention. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III - Partial Retention. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape. However, the change should remain subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape. Structures located in the foreground distance zone (0-½ mile) often create a contrast that exceeds the VRM class, even when designed to harmonize and blend with the characteristic landscape. This may be especially true when a distinctive architectural motif or style is designed. Approval by the District Manager is required on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the structure(s) meet the acceptable VRM class standards and, if not, whether they add acceptable visual variety to the landscape.

Class IV - Modification. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale; however, the change should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape. Structures located in the foreground distance zone (0-½ mile) often create a contrast that exceeds the VRM class, even when designed to harmonize and blend with the characteristic landscape. This may be especially true when a distinctive architectural motif or style is designed. Approval by the District Manager is required on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the structure(s) meet the acceptable VRM class standards and, if not, whether they add acceptable visual variety to the landscape.

Class V - Rehabilitation or Enhancement. Change is needed to bring an area up to the standards of Class I, II, III, or IV (rehabilitation), or change may add acceptable visual variety to an area (enhancement). This class applies to areas where the natural character of the landscape has been disturbed to a point where the contrast is inharmonious with the characteristic landscape and rehabilitation is needed. (For example, unacceptable cultural modification has reduced the scenic quality.) It may also be applied to areas that have the potential to increase the visual quality or variety of an area or site. Class V should be considered an interim or short term classification until one of the other VRM class objectives can be reached through rehabilitation or enhancement. The desired visual resource management class should be identified.

Visual quality - The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view (BLM, VRM Manual).

Visual resource - The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) (BLM, VRM Manual).

Watershed (or drainage basin) - A topographically defined area drained by a river, stream, or system of connecting rivers or streams such that all outflow is discharged through a single outlet.

Water quality limited stream segment - A stream segment in which full attainment of an identified beneficial use has not been achieved as a result of one or more limiting water quality parameters.

Way - See *vehicle way*.

Wetland area/habitat - An area where at least periodic inundation or saturation with water (either from the surface or subsurface) is the predominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living there. These include the entire zones associated with streams, lakes, ponds, canals, seeps, wet meadows, and some aspen stands. They support all fish and more species of wildlife in higher densities than any other habitat type in the Resource Area.

Wilderness - All lands included in the National Wilderness Preservation System by public law. Also, generally defined as undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA) - A roadless area that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics, having few human developments and providing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Wildland Fire - Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland. This term encompasses fires previously called both wildfires and prescribed natural fires.

Wildland Fire Use - The management of naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives in pre-defined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Wildland Fire Suppression - An appropriate management response to a wildland fire that results in curtailment of fire spread and eliminates all identified threats from the particular fire. All wildland fire suppression activities provide for firefighter and public safety as the highest consideration, but minimizes loss of resource values, economic expenditures, and/or the use of critical firefighting resources.

Wildlife - Animals living in a natural, undomesticated state, including birds (raptors, songbirds, upland game birds), mammals (furbearers, big game, nongame mammals), reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Winter range - A population or portion of a population of animals use the suitable habitat within this range annually, but in substantial numbers only during the winter.

Woodland - Forest land which is not included in the commercial forest land allowable harvest base; also lands which include fragile nonsuitable land, noncommercial forest land, and nonsuitable commercial forest land. All woodland is further classified as suitable woodland or nonsuitable woodland.

Yearlong range - A population or substantial portion of a population of animals makes general use of the suitable habitat sites within this range on a year-round basis. However, during extremely severe winters or drought periods, animals may leave the area.

Fire Management Within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area

Fire management in the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) would follow relevant fire management direction contained in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) (BLM 1995), unless more current policy applies. The following paragraphs quote a section of the IMP that relates directly to fire management (BLM Manual H-8550-1, Chapter III, Section J, pp. 48-49, 7/5/95). Additional portions of the IMP may also contain guidance which applies during fire management planning or implementation.

"The BLM will conduct all prescribed fire and suppression activities in accordance with fire management activity plans and subsequent operational plans (prescribed fire and preattack) for all WSAs, using caution to avoid unnecessary impairment of an area's suitability for preservation as wilderness. "Light-Hand-On-The-Land" fire suppression tactics will be used. Fire is a natural component of many wilderness ecosystems and fire plans need to give serious consideration to this fact before recommending one fire management technique over another. Resource area advisors will use the fire plans in making decisions during emergency fire situations and prescribed ignitions. All uses of earth moving equipment within a WSA require authorization. Priority for placement of large fire camps should be outside WSAs. Use of motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment during mop-up should be minimized."

"The fire preattack plan covering a WSA will specify the fire management objectives and special considerations for each WSA, taking into account a number of factors including the existing wilderness characteristics of the area, the need to prevent impairing actions, historic fire occurrence, the natural role of fire, proposed degree of suppression, expected fire behavior, acceptable suppression techniques, adequate buffer zones, smoke management, effect on private or other agency inholdings and on adjacent landowners, the limits of acceptable fire weather, fire behavior, fire effects, and the access requirements of other agencies. In planning firebreaks, the use of natural firebreaks and existing roads is encouraged. Emergency fire rehabilitation measures will continue to be carried out under guidelines in Handbook H-1742-1 and Manual Section 1742. Efforts should be made to rehabilitate any impacts created by suppression activities prior to releasing fire crews and associated equipment following fire containment."

"To hold fire to the desired level within WSAs, fire management procedures and plans will rely on: (1) the most effective methods of suppression that are least damaging to wilderness values (i.e. "light-hand-on-the-land" techniques), other resources, and the environment, while requiring the least expenditure of public funds including rehabilitation of the area; (2) an aggressive fire prevention program; and (3) an integrated cooperative suppression program by agencies of the Department among themselves or with other qualified suppression organizations. Present suppression methods may be used, including use of power tools, aircraft, motorboats, and motorized fire-fighting equipment while applying "light-hand-on-the-land" techniques. Existing fire lookout towers and helispots may be used and maintained; new ones may be approved as part of the fire management activity plan if they are the minimum necessary for fire suppression in the WSA."

"Fire managers should inform suppression personnel during dispatch that the fire is in a WSA and that special constraints apply. Memoranda of Understanding with other agencies should contain stipulations reflecting wilderness interim management guidance. Fire managers should notify Area Managers of any unsuccessful initial attack action on a fire in a WSA before developing the Escaped Fire Situation Analysis."

Appendix B

Off-road Vehicle Use Within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area

Exceptions for off-road vehicle travel within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) would be those provided for in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) (BLM 1995), unless more current policy applies. The following paragraphs quote a portion of the IMP that relates directly to off-road vehicle use (BLM Manual H-8550-1, Chapter 1, Section B, #11, pp. 15-16). Additional sections of the IMP may also contain relevant motorized vehicle management guidance.

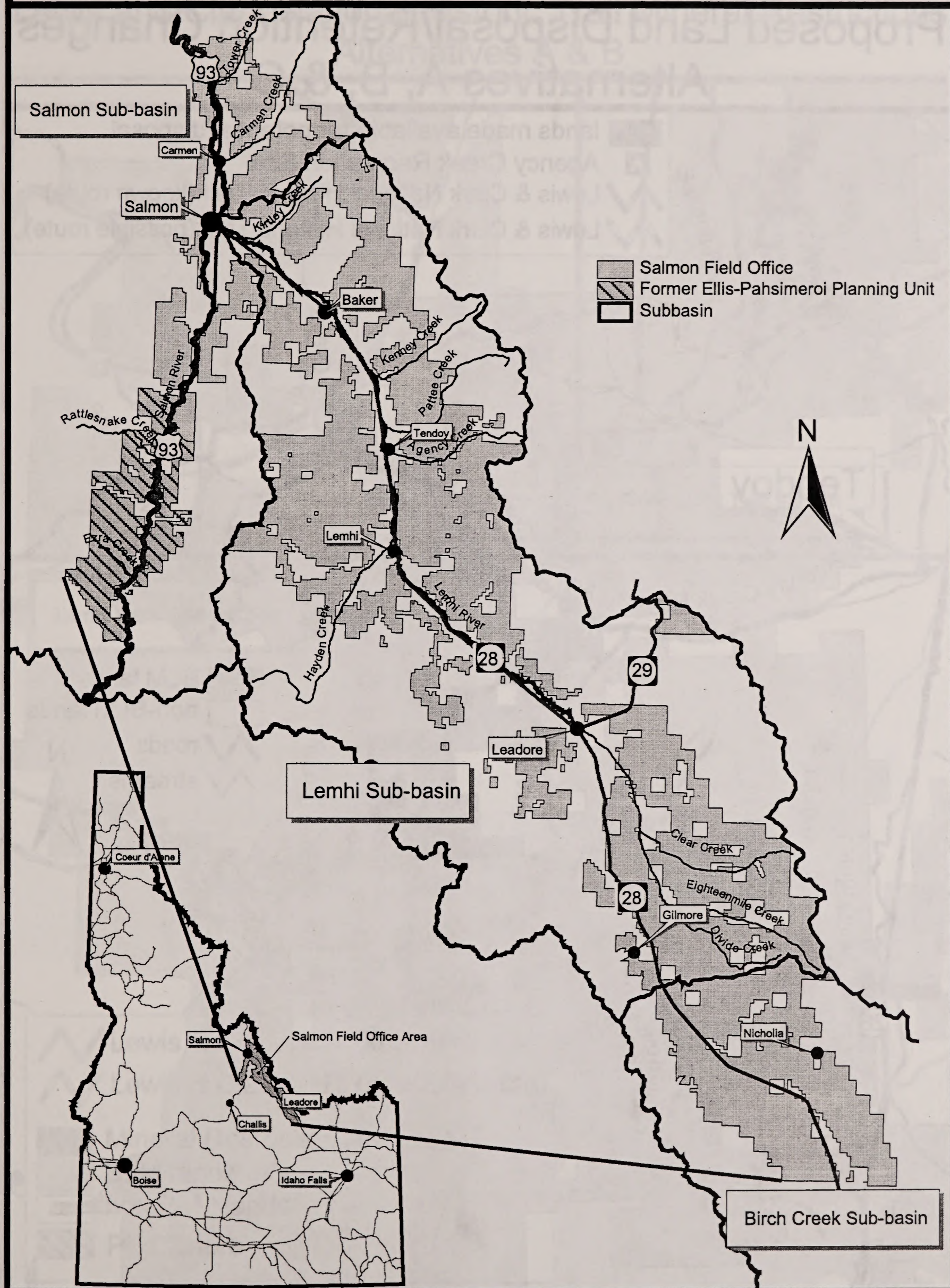
"Motor vehicles ... may be allowed off boundary roads and existing ways for these purposes only:

- a. in emergencies and search and rescue operations (as described in Section 12, below);
- b. for official purposes by the BLM and other Federal, State, and local agencies and their agents when necessary and specifically authorized by the BLM for protection of human life, safety, and property; for protection of the lands and their resources; and,
- c. to build or maintain structures and installations authorized in this document, as long as such use of vehicles is determined to satisfy the nonimpairment criteria and is only along routes authorized and specified by the BLM. No grading, blading, or vegetative disturbance will be permitted as this would constitute surface disturbance and thus not meet the nonimpairment criteria.

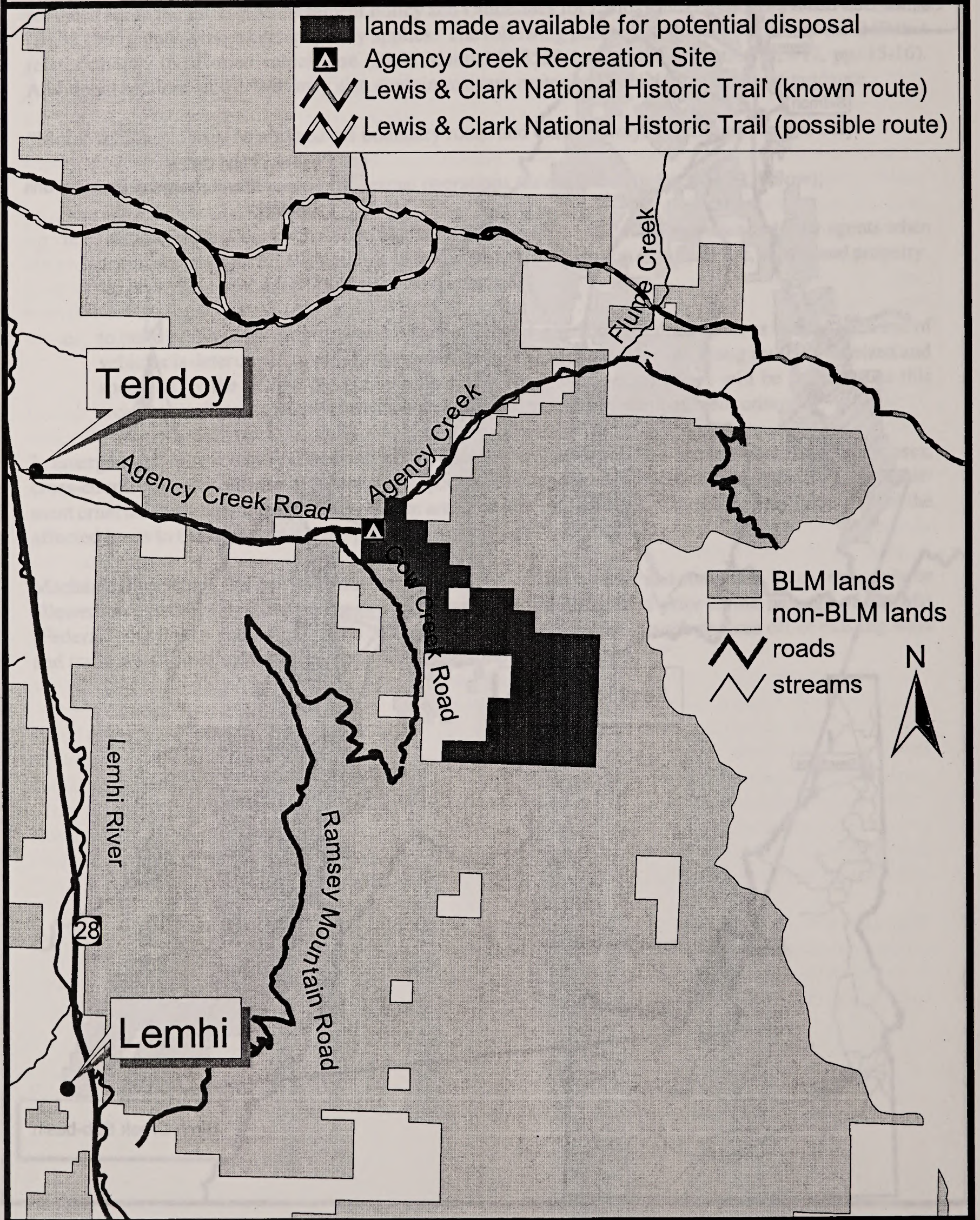
In emergencies, cross-country travel will not be held to the nonimpairment standard; but in all other cases, cross-country travel is allowed only where it is specifically authorized by BLM and it satisfies the nonimpairment criteria. If impacts threaten to impair the area's wilderness suitability, the BLM may limit or close the affected lands to the uses causing the problem.

Mechanical transport, including all motorized devices as well as trail and mountain bikes, may only be allowed on existing ways and within "open" areas that were designated prior to the passage of FLPMA [Federal Land Policy and Management Act] (October 21, 1976). Use of such devices off of existing ways and trails are allowed only for the purposes listed in the paragraph above."

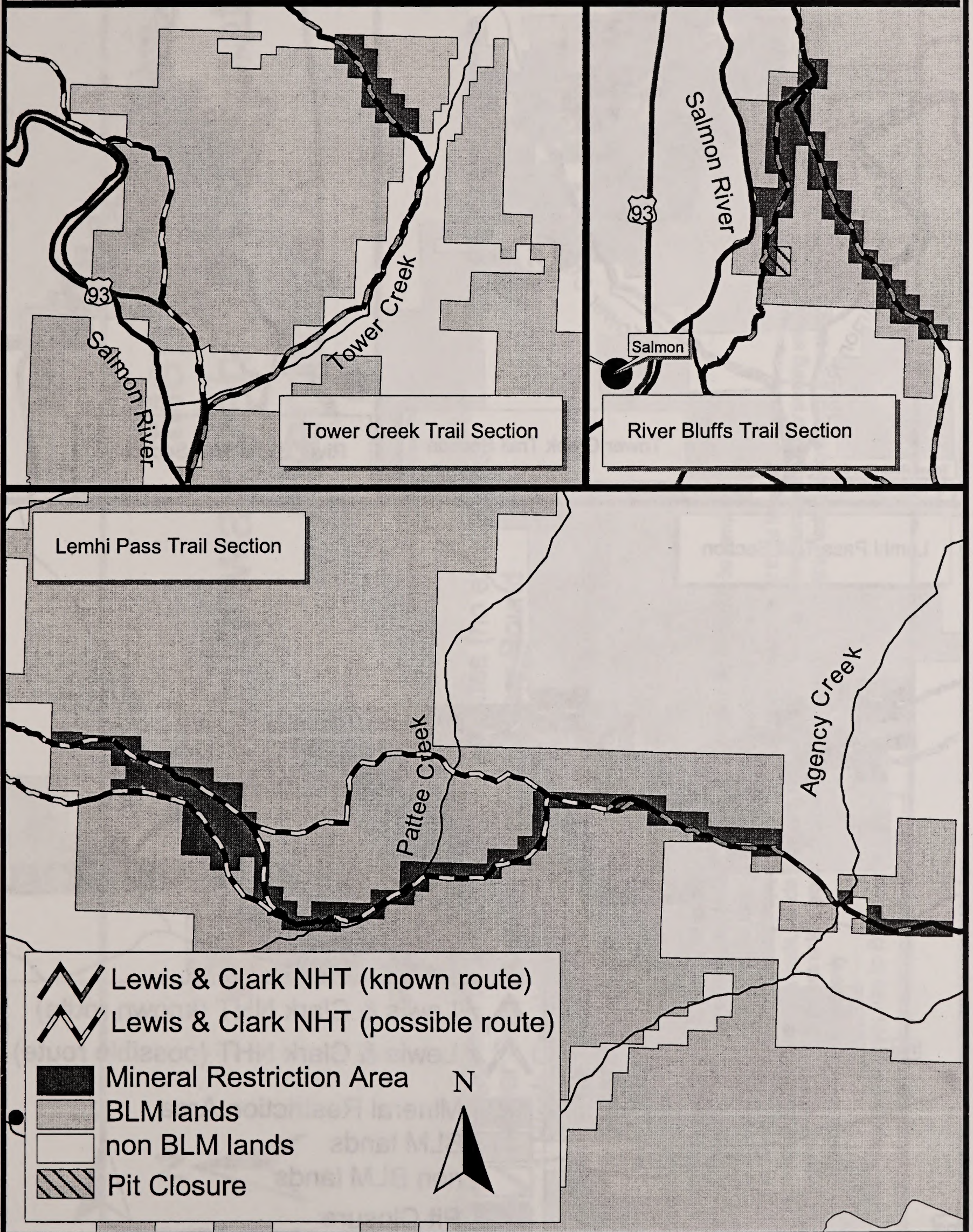
Map1: Salmon Field Office - General Location



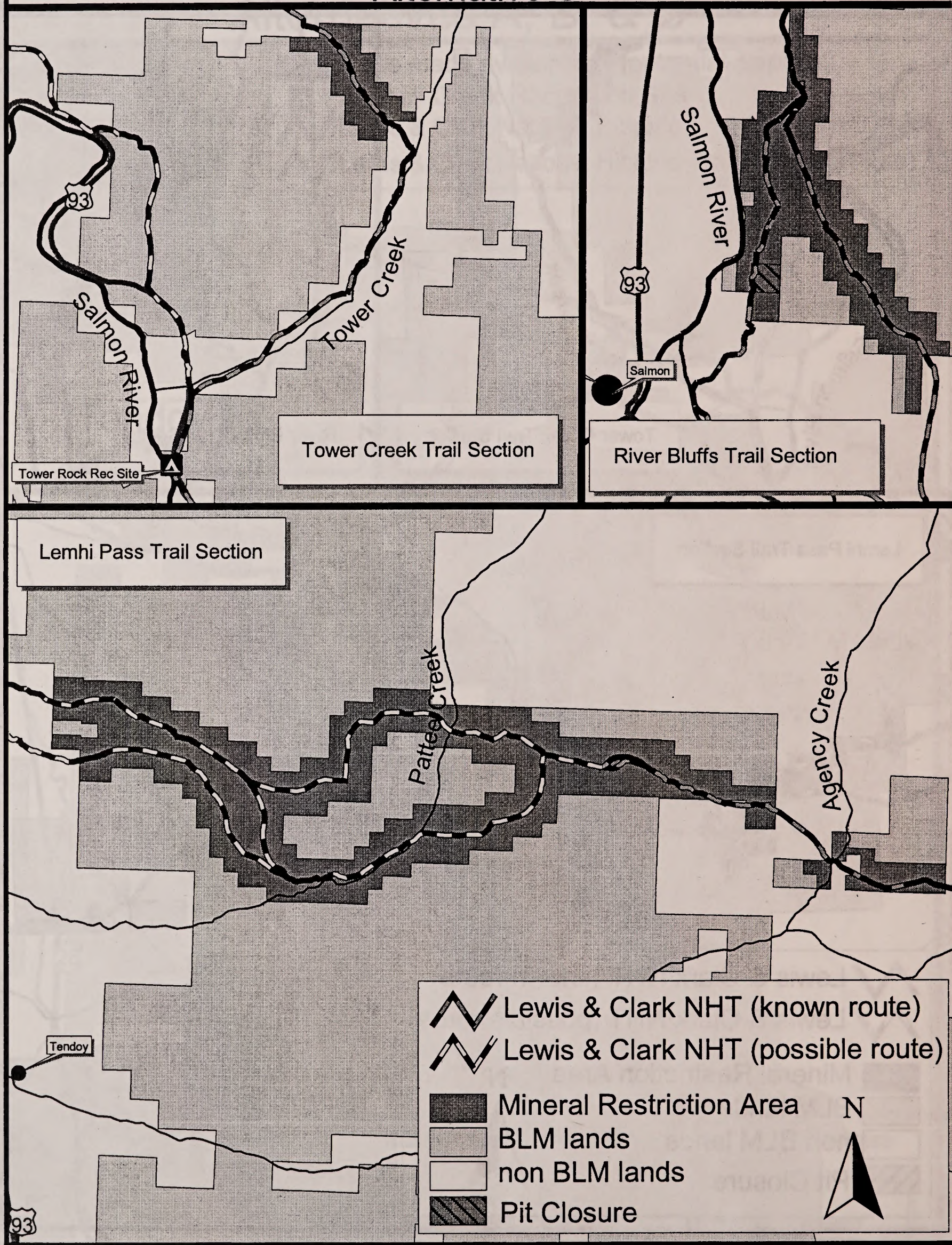
Map 2: Proposed Land Disposal/Retention Changes Alternatives A, B, & C



Map 3: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Mineral Restrictions Alternatives A & B

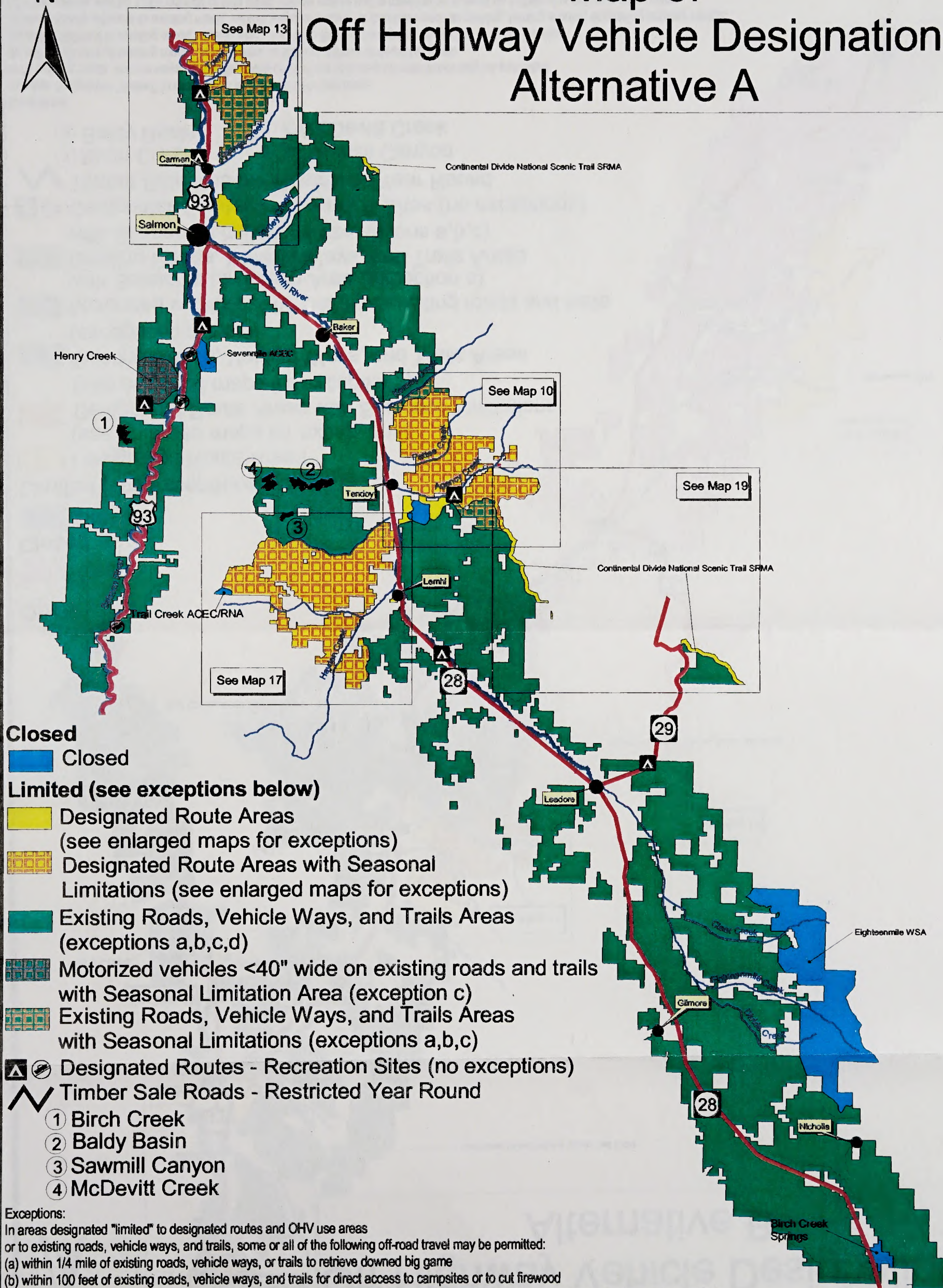


Map 4: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Mineral Restrictions Alternative C





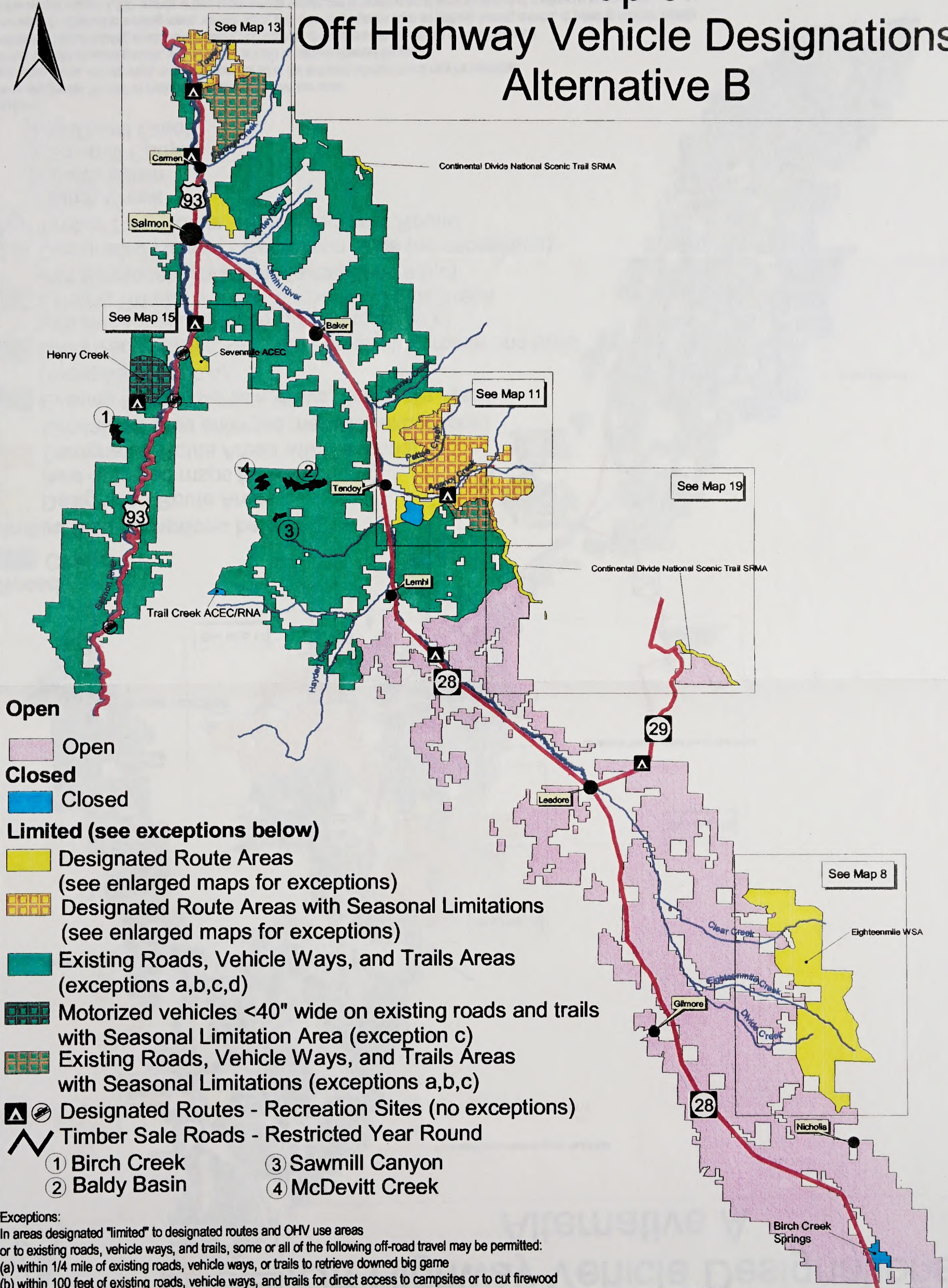
Map 5: Off Highway Vehicle Designations Alternative A



Note: Management applies to BLM lands only



Map 6: Off Highway Vehicle Designations Alternative B



Open

Open

Closed

Closed

Limited (see exceptions below)

Designated Route Areas

(see enlarged maps for exceptions)

Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations

(see enlarged maps for exceptions)

Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas

(exceptions a,b,c,d)

Motorized vehicles <40" wide on existing roads and trails with Seasonal Limitation Area (exception c)

Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c)

Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

Timber Sale Roads - Restricted Year Round

① Birch Creek

③ Sawmill Canyon

② Baldy Basin

④ McDevitt Creek

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

(a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game

(b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood

(c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle

(d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover

(e) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only




Map 7: Off Highway Vehicle Designations Alternative C


Closed

 Closed


Limited (see exceptions below)


 Designated Route Areas


(see enlarged maps for exceptions)


 Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations


(see enlarged maps for exceptions)

 Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas
(exceptions a,b,c,d)

 Motorized vehicles <40" wide on existing roads, vehicle ways,
and trails with Seasonal Limitation Area (exception c)

 Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas
with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c)

 Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

 Timber Sale Roads - Restricted Year Round

① Birch Creek

② Baldy Basin

③ Sawmill Canyon

④ McDevitt Creek

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

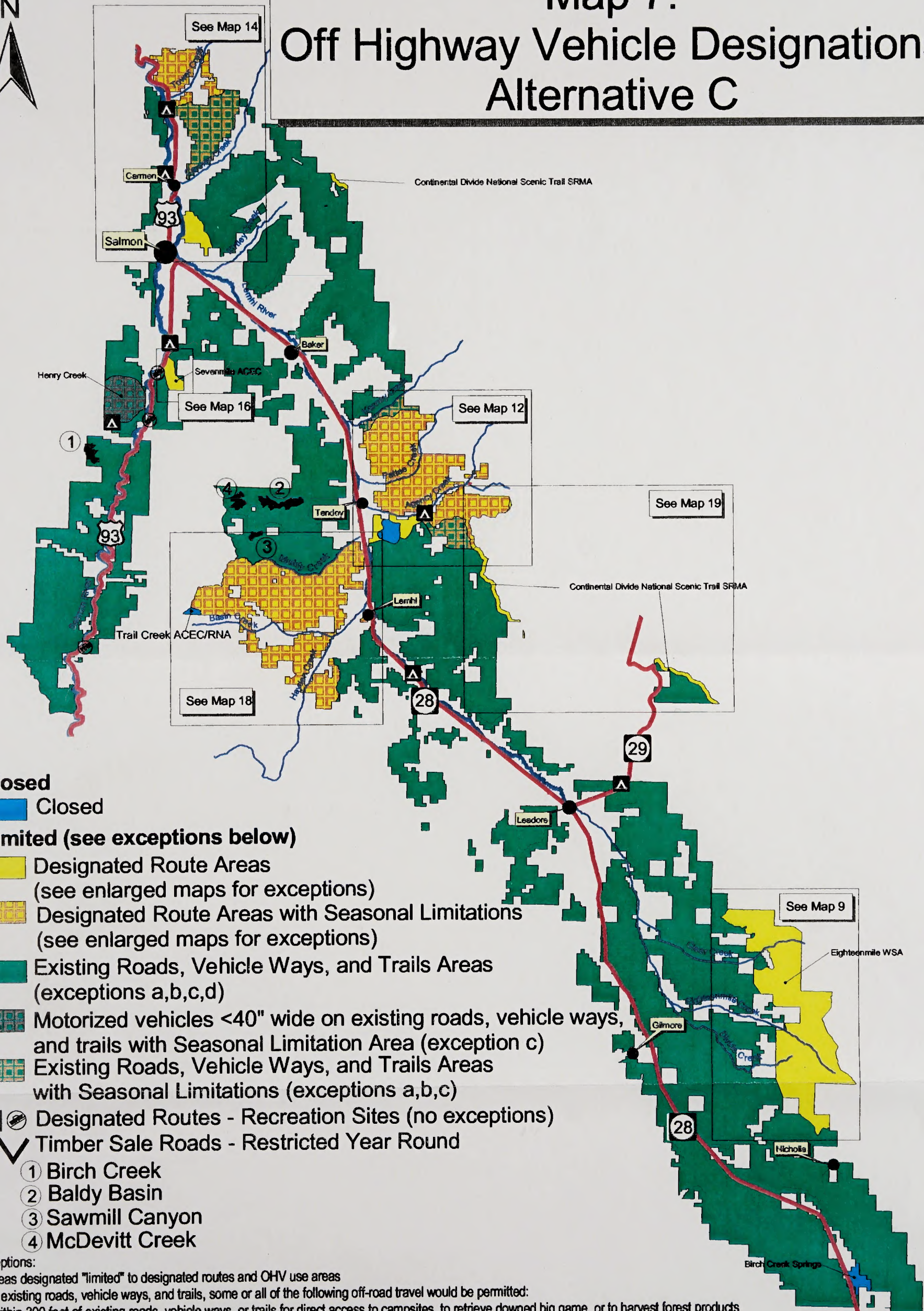
(a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products

(b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle

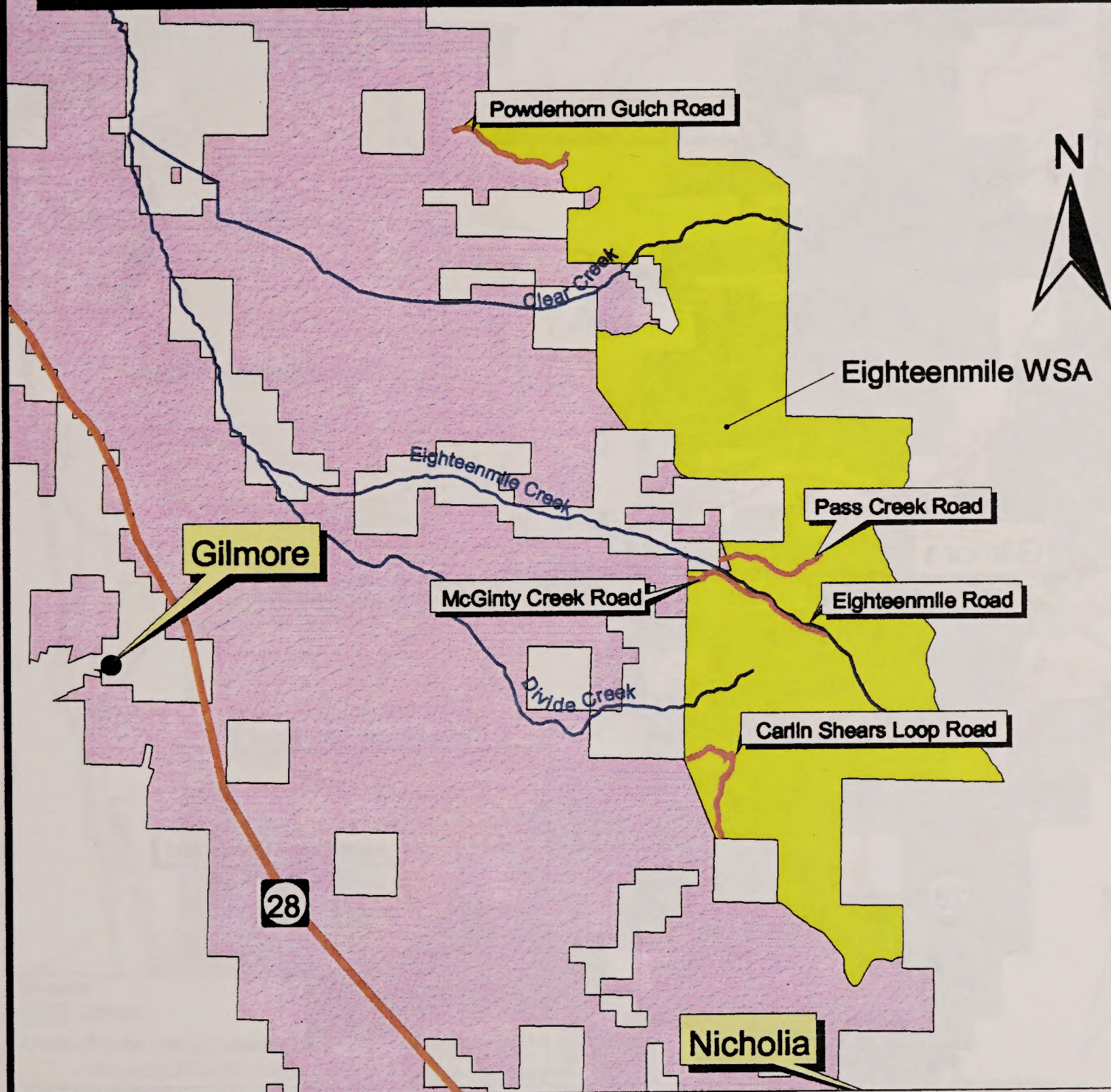
(c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover

(d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

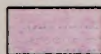
Note: Management applies to BLM lands only



Map 8: OHV Designations for Eighteenmile WSA Alternative B

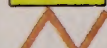


Open

 Open

Limited (see exceptions below)

 Designated Route Areas (exception c)

 Designated Routes - Year long access

Exceptions:

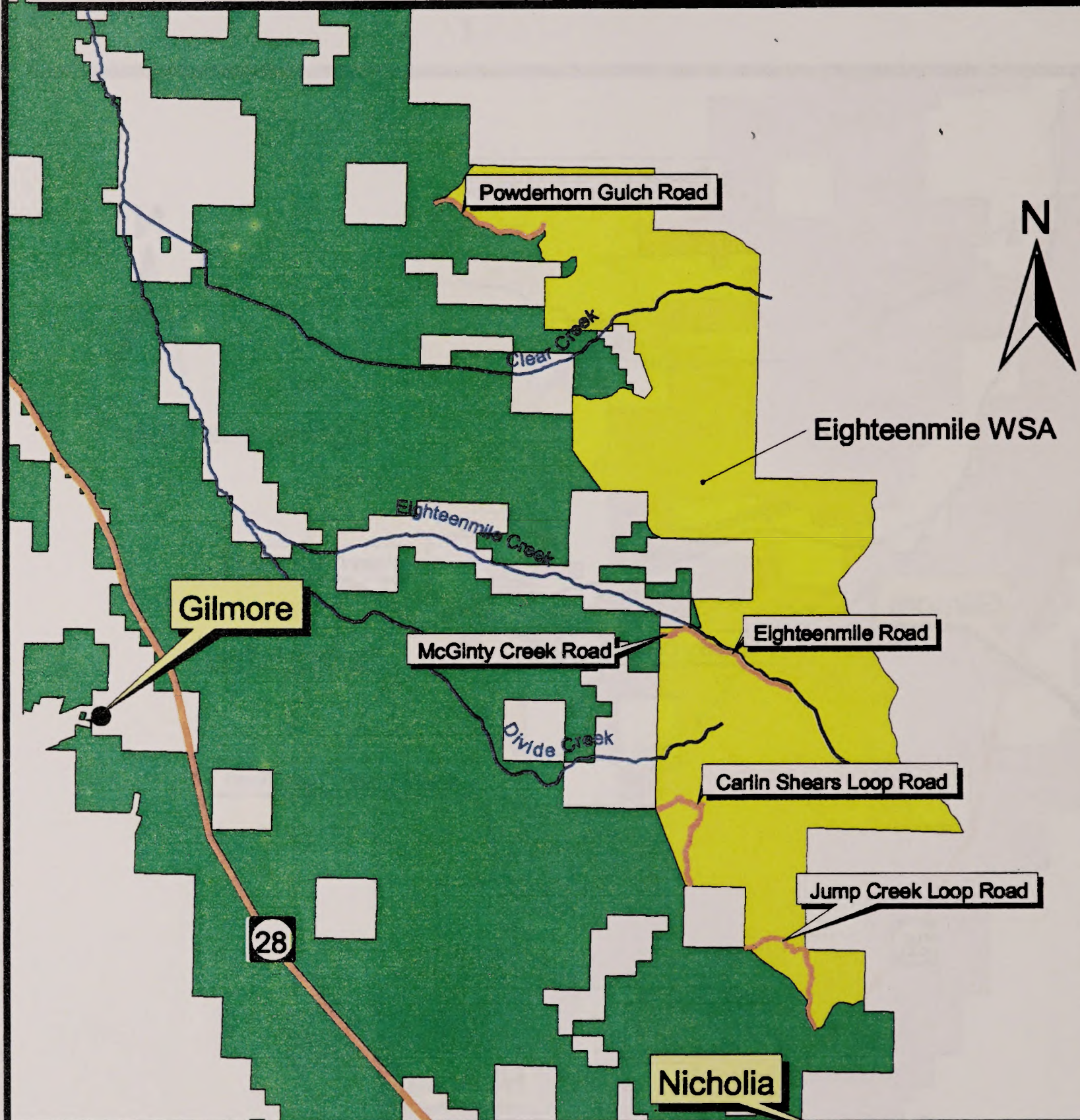
In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

- (a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game
- (b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood
- (c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only

Map 9: OHV Designations for Eighteenmile WSA Alternative C



Limited (see exceptions below)

- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c)
- Designated Route Areas (exception b)
- Designated Routes - Year long access

Exceptions:

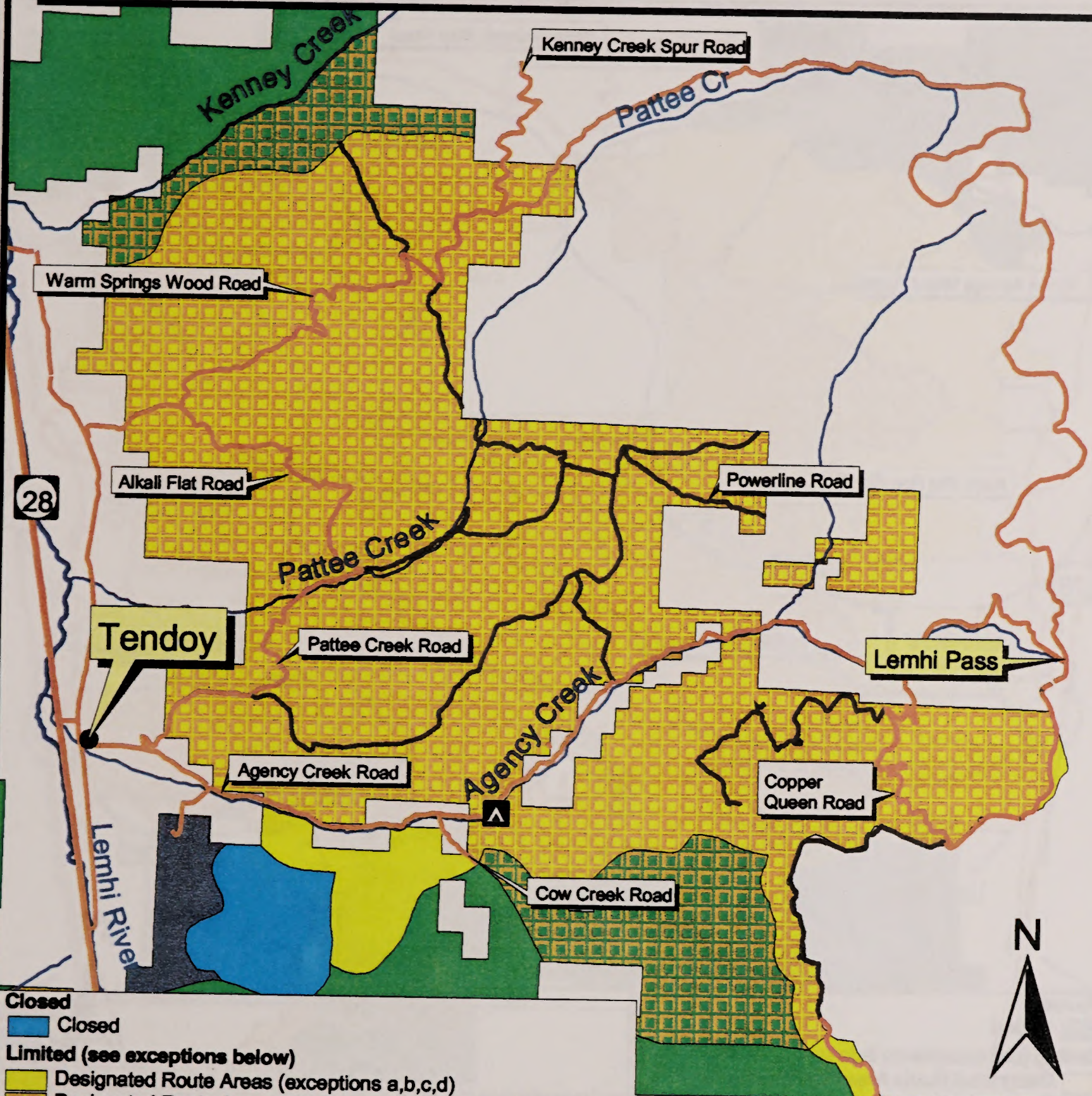
In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

- (a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products
- (b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only

Map 10: OHV Designations for Kenney, Pattee, and Agency Creeks Alternative A



Closed

■ Closed

Limited (see exceptions below)

■ Designated Route Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)

■ Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c,e)

■ Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)

■ Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c)

■ Designated Route Areas (no exceptions)

▲ Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

▲ Designated Routes - seasonal limitations

▲ Designated Routes - Year long access

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

(a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game

(b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood

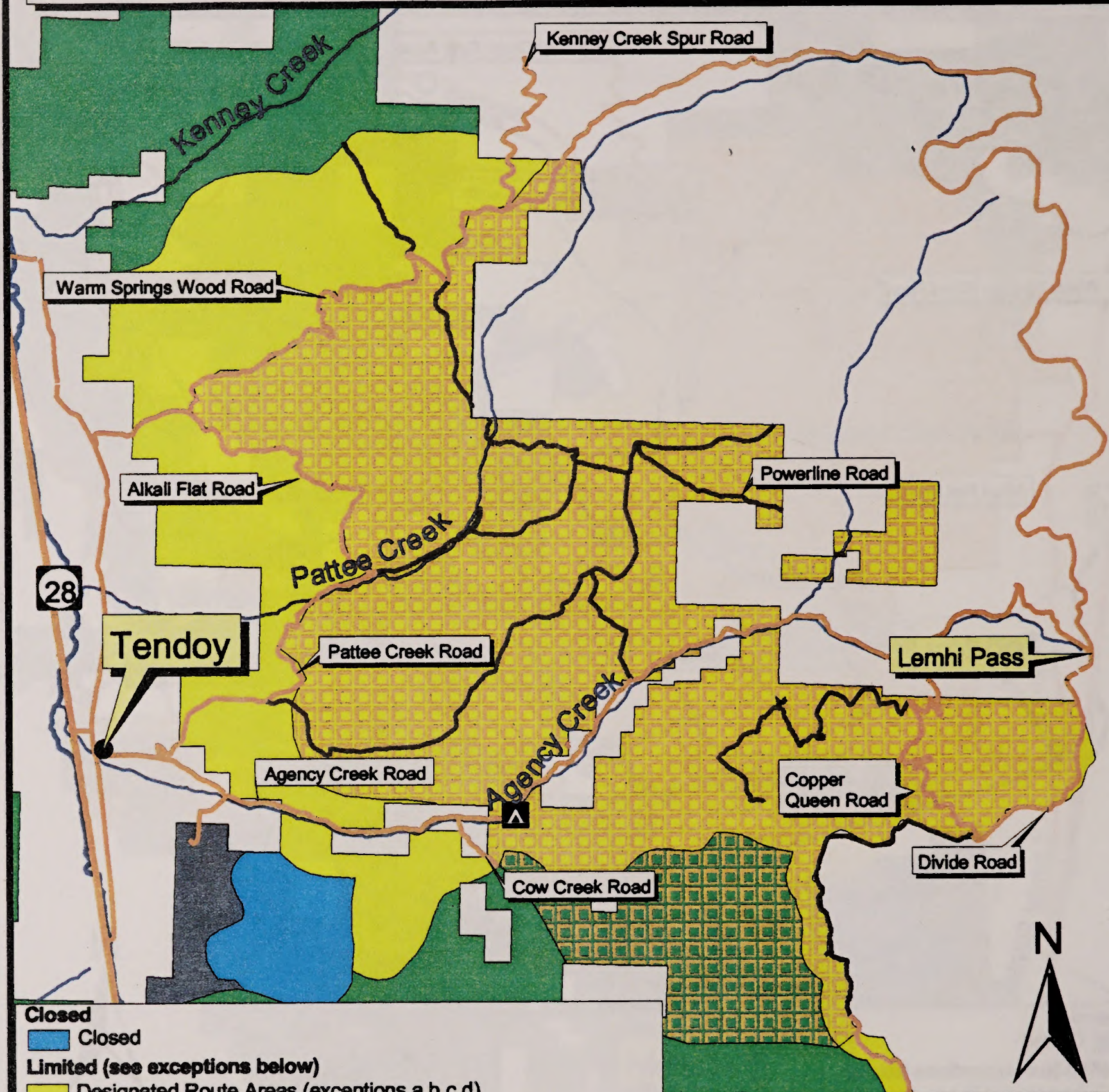
(c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle

(d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover

(e) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

Map 11: OHV Designations for Kenney, Pattee, and Agency Creeks Alternative B



Closed

Blue Closed

Limited (see exceptions below)

Yellow Designated Route Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)

Yellow with cross-hatch Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c,e)

Green Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)

Green with cross-hatch Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c)

Dark Green Designated Route Areas (no exceptions)

Triangle Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

Wavy line Designated Routes - seasonal limitations

Double wavy line Designated Routes - Year long access

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

(a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game

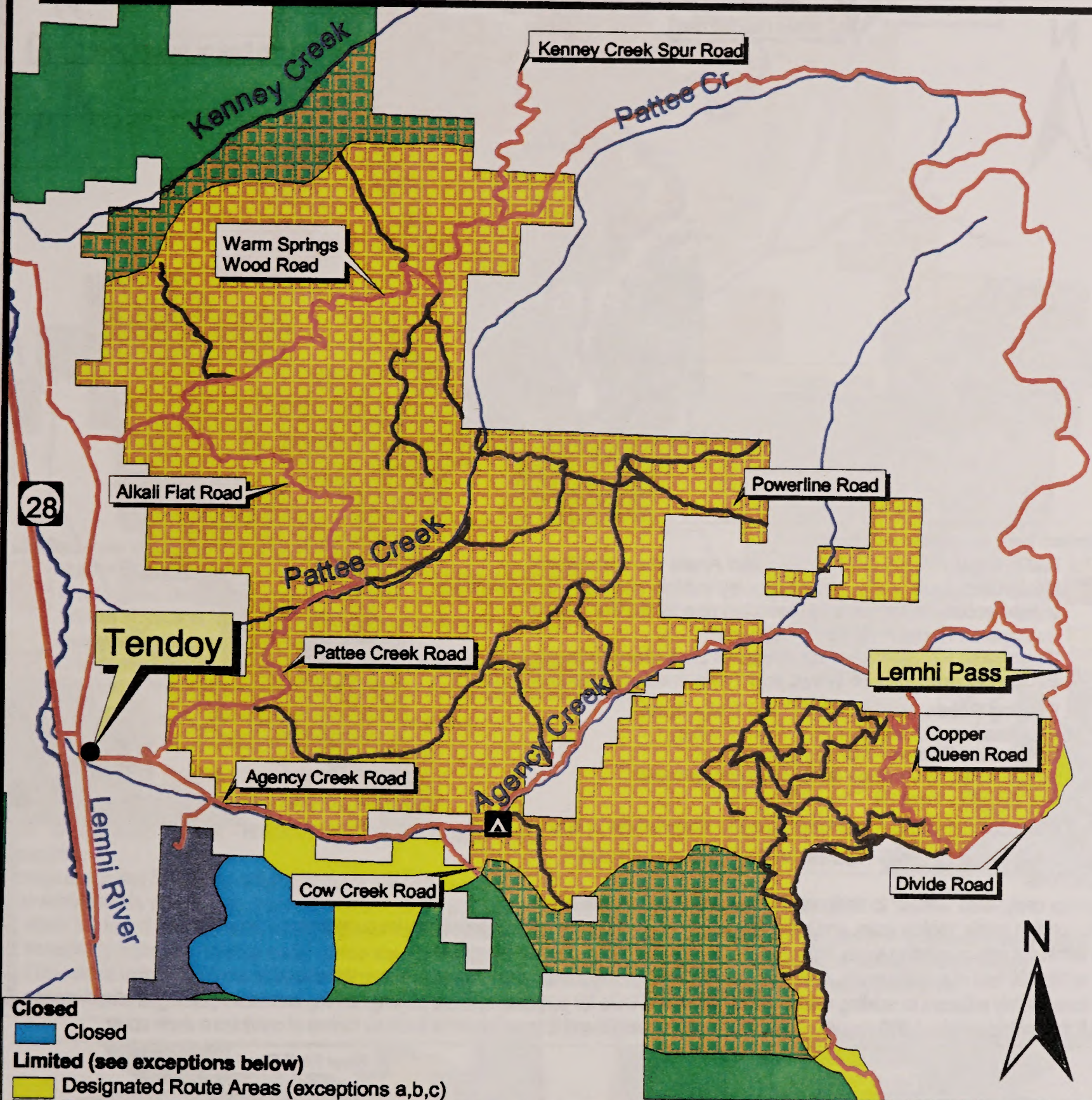
(b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood

(c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle

(d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover

(e) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Map 12: OHV Designations for Kenney, Pattee, and Agency Creeks Alternative C



Closed

■ Closed

Limited (see exceptions below)

■ Designated Route Areas (exceptions a,b,c)

■ Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,d)

■ Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c)

■ Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b)

■ Designated Route Areas (no exceptions)

▲ Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

▲ Designated Routes - seasonal limitations

▲ Designated Routes - Year long access

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

(a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products

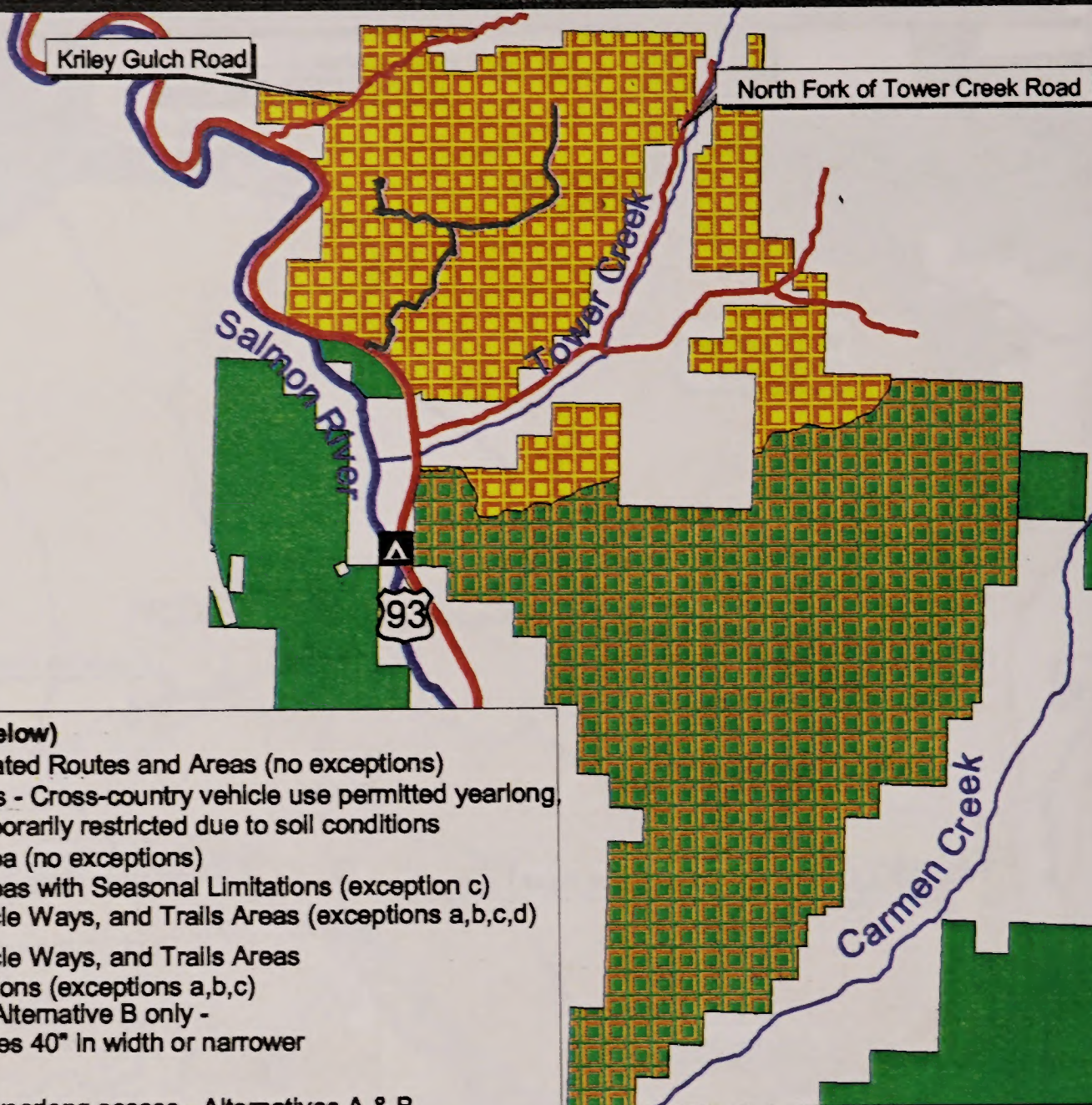
(b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle

(c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover










(d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

Map 13: OHV Designations for Tower Creek, Badger Springs and River Bluffs Alternatives A & B



Limited (see exceptions below)

-  R&PP lease - Designated Routes and Areas (no exceptions)
-  Designated Use Areas - Cross-country vehicle use permitted yearlong, unless access is temporarily restricted due to soil conditions
-  Designated Route Area (no exceptions)
-  Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exception c)
-  Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)
-  Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c)
-  Designated Routes - Alternative B only - travel limited to vehicles 40" in width or narrower from May 1 - Sept 30
-  Designated Routes - yearlong access - Alternatives A & B
-  Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

- (a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game
- (b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood
- (c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover.

Salmon

River Bluff Road

Sagehen Flat Road

Lemhi River

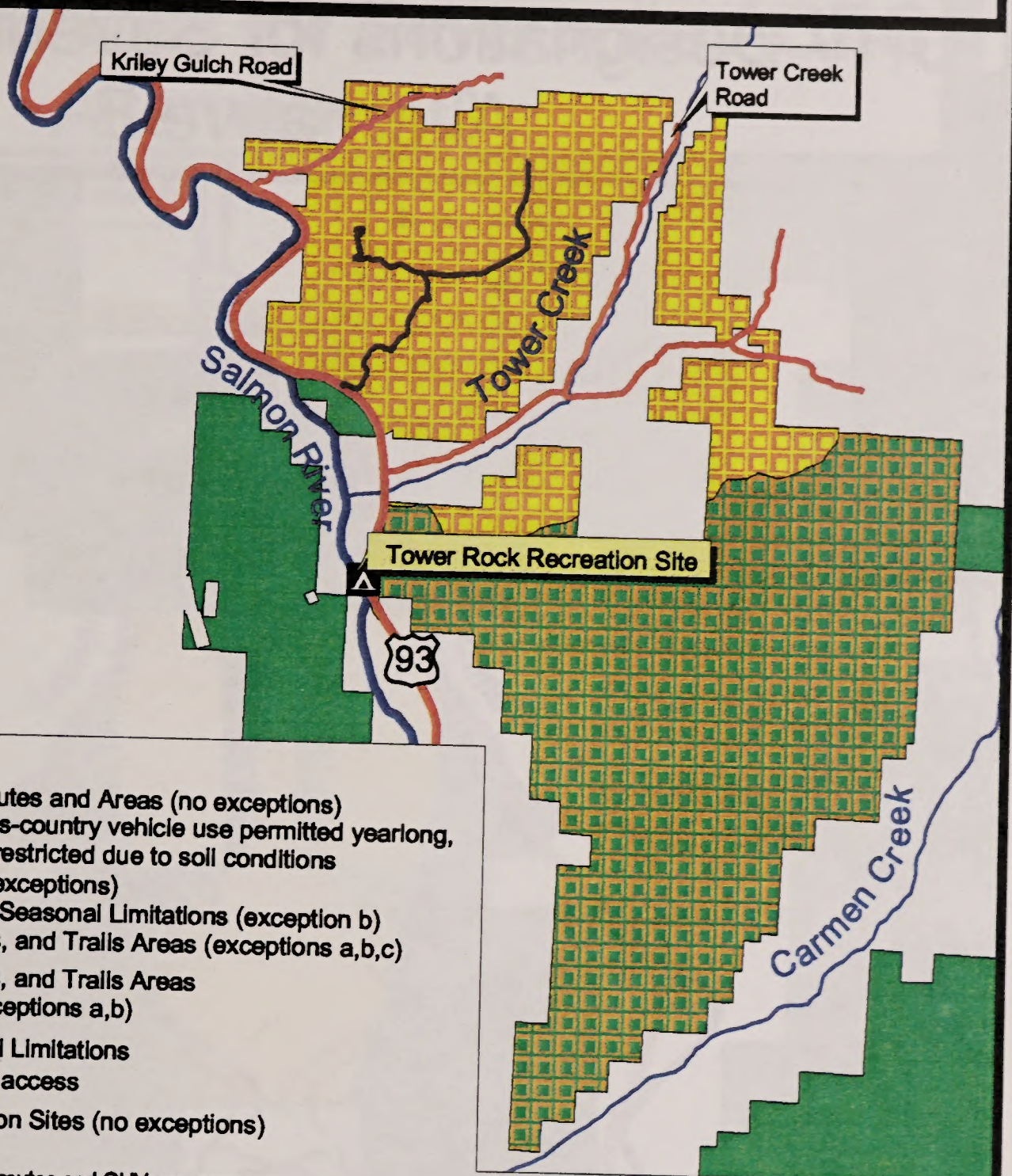
Kirtley Creek

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only

93

28

Map 14: OHV Designations for Tower Creek, Badger Springs, and River Bluffs Alternative C



Limited (see exceptions below)

- R&PP lease - Designated Routes and Areas (no exceptions)
- Designated Use Areas - Cross-country vehicle use permitted yearlong, unless access is temporarily restricted due to soil conditions
- Designated Route Areas (no exceptions)
- Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exception b)
- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c)
- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b)
- Designated Routes - Seasonal Limitations
- Designated Routes - yearlong access
- Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

- (a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products
- (b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Salmon

River Bluff Road

Sagehen Flat Road

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only

93

28

Lemhi River

Kirtley Creek

Map 15: OHV Designations for Sevenmile ACEC Alternative B



Limited (see exceptions below)

- Designated Route Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)
- Motorized vehicles <40" wide on existing roads and trails with Seasonal Limitation Area (exception c)
- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)
- Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)
- Designated Routes - Year long access

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

- (a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game
- (b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood
- (c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (e) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

Map 16: OHV Designations for Sevenmile ACEC Alternative C



Limited (see exceptions below)

- Designated Route Areas (exceptions a,b)
- Motorized vehicles <48" wide on existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails with Seasonal Limitation Area (exception b)
- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c)
- Designated Routes - Recreation Sites (no exceptions)
- Designated Routes - Yearlong Access

Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

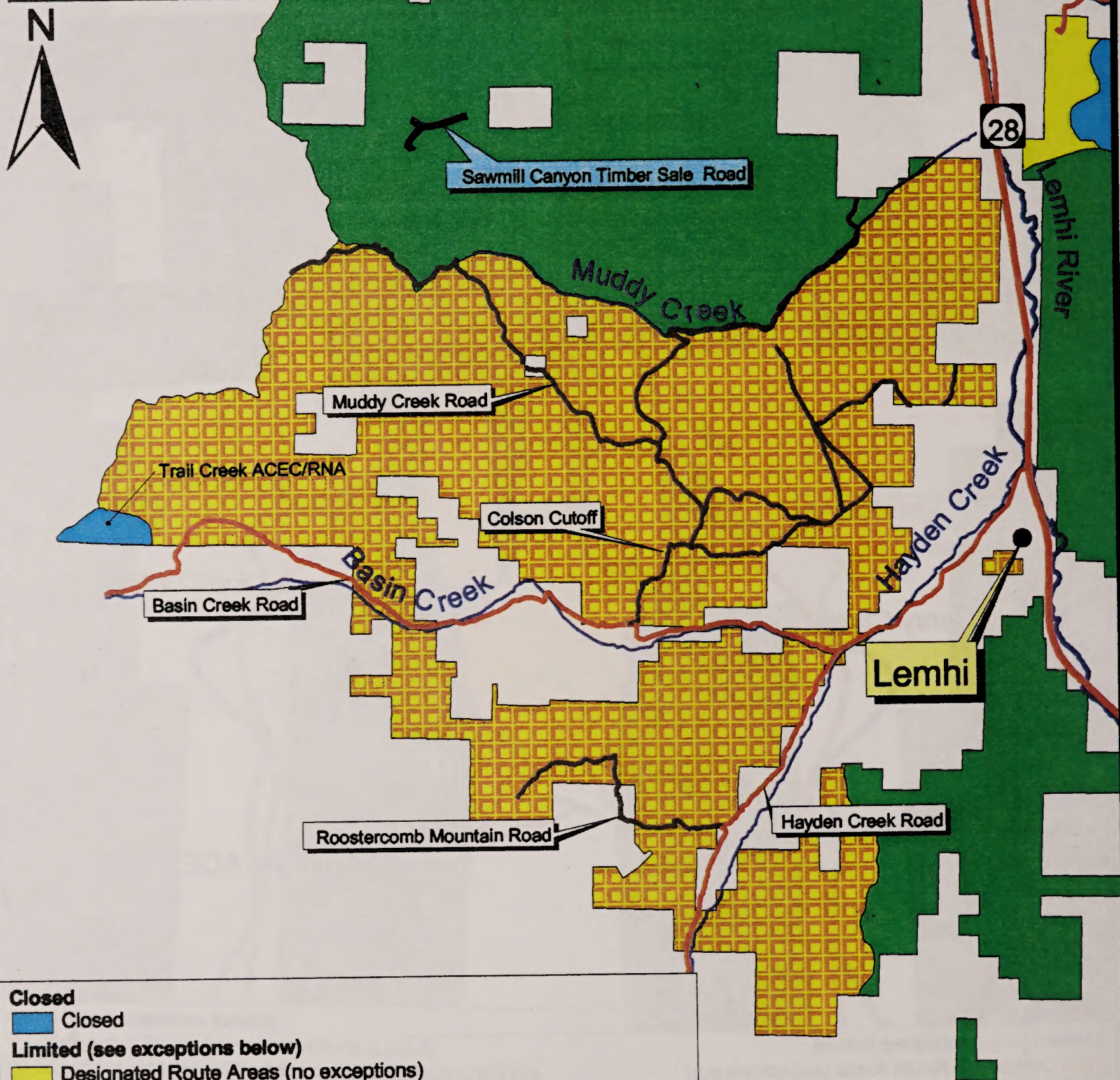
or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

- (a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products
- (b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .



Map 17: OHV Designations for Hayden, Basin, and Muddy Creeks Alternative A



Closed

■ Closed

Limited (see exceptions below)

■ Designated Route Areas (no exceptions)

■ Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c,d)

■ Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c,d)

— Timber Sale Road - Restricted Year Round

- - - Designated Routes - Seasonal Limitations

— Designated Routes - Year long access

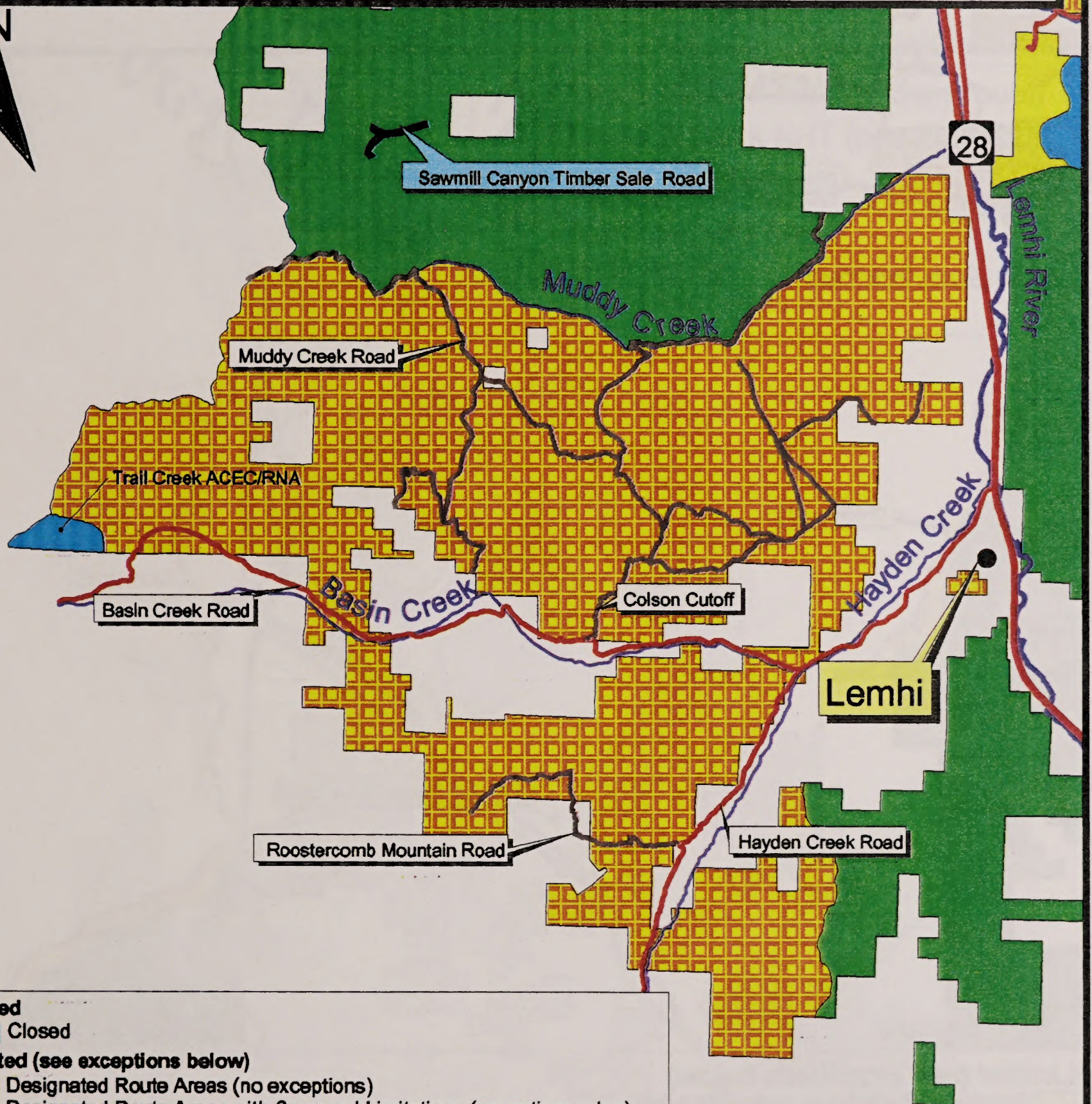
Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel may be permitted:

- (a) within 1/4 mile of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails to retrieve downed big game
- (b) within 100 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for direct access to campsites or to cut firewood
- (c) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (d) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (e) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

Map 18: OHV Designations for Hayden, Basin, and Muddy Creeks Alternative C



Closed

Closed

Limited (see exceptions below)

Designated Route Areas (no exceptions)

Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,c)

Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c)

Timber Sale Road - Restricted Year Round

Designated Routes - Seasonal Limitations

Designated Routes - Year long access

Exceptions:

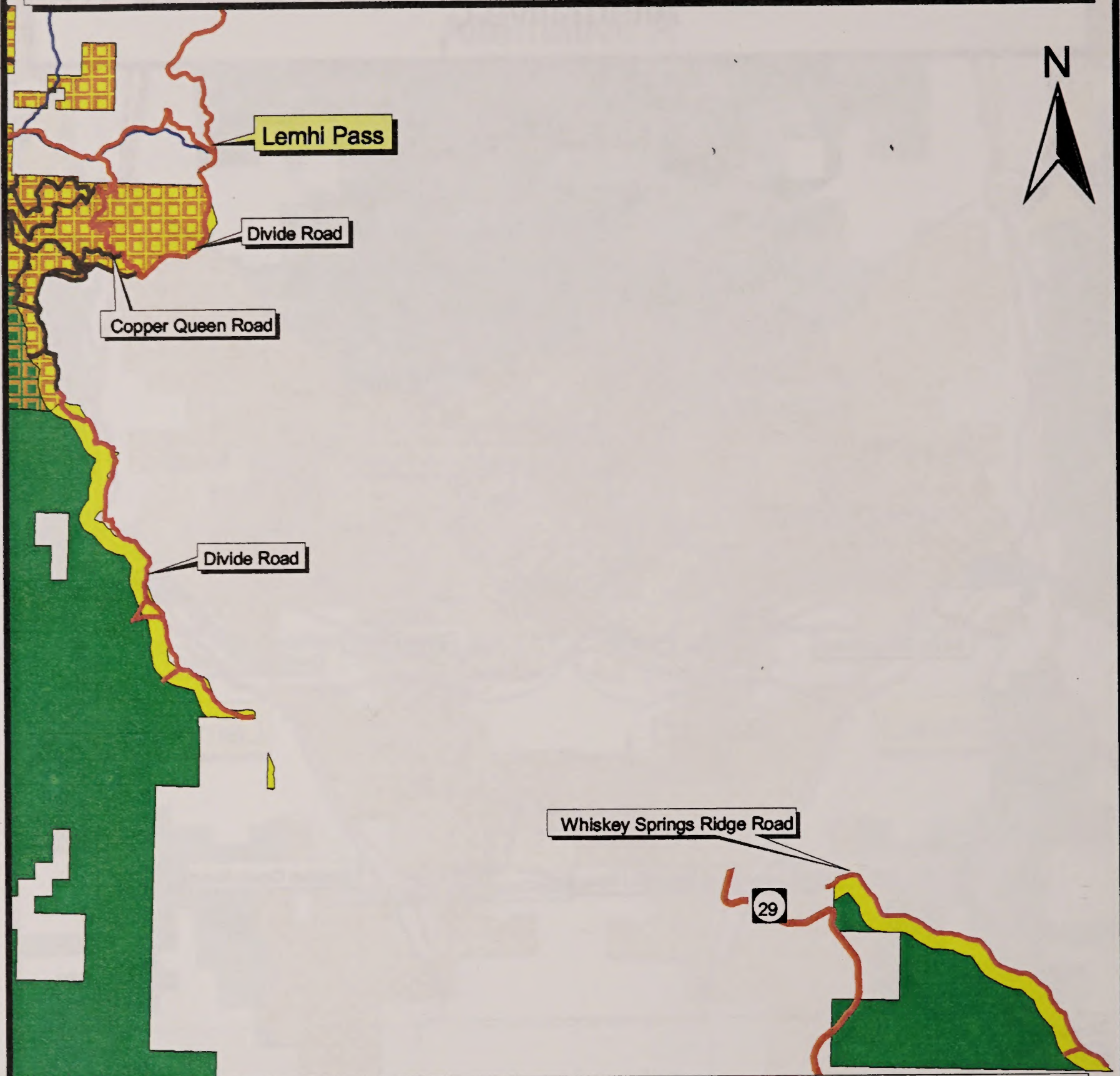
In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

- (a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products
- (b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

Map 19: OHV Designations for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Alternatives A, B, & C



Limited (see exceptions below)

- Designated Route Areas (exceptions a,b,c)
- Designated Route Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b,d)
- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas (exceptions a,b,c)
- Existing Roads, Vehicle Ways, and Trails Areas with Seasonal Limitations (exceptions a,b)
- Designated Routes - seasonal limitations
- Designated Routes - Year long access

Note: Management applies to BLM lands only .

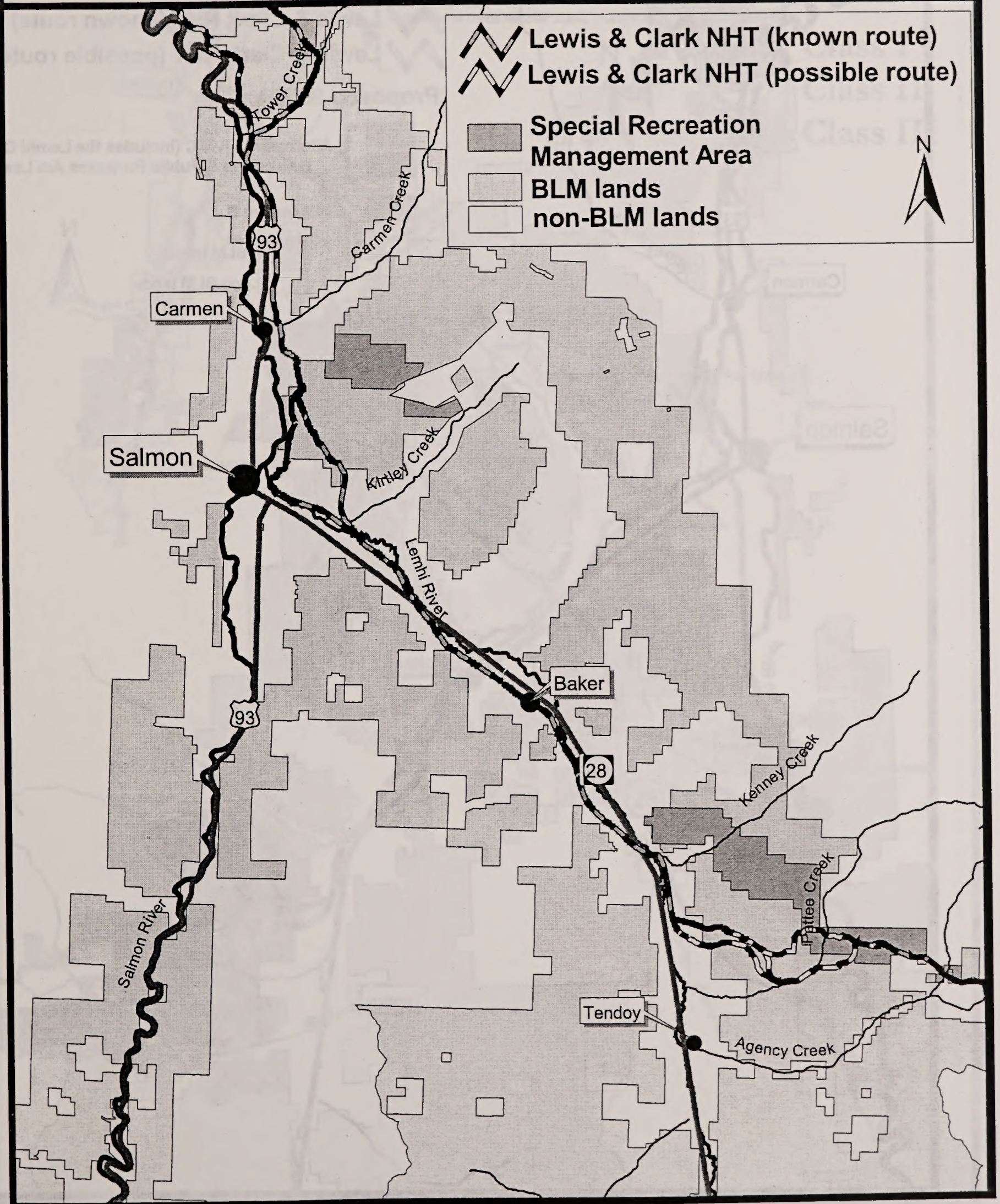
Exceptions:

In areas designated "limited" to designated routes and OHV use areas

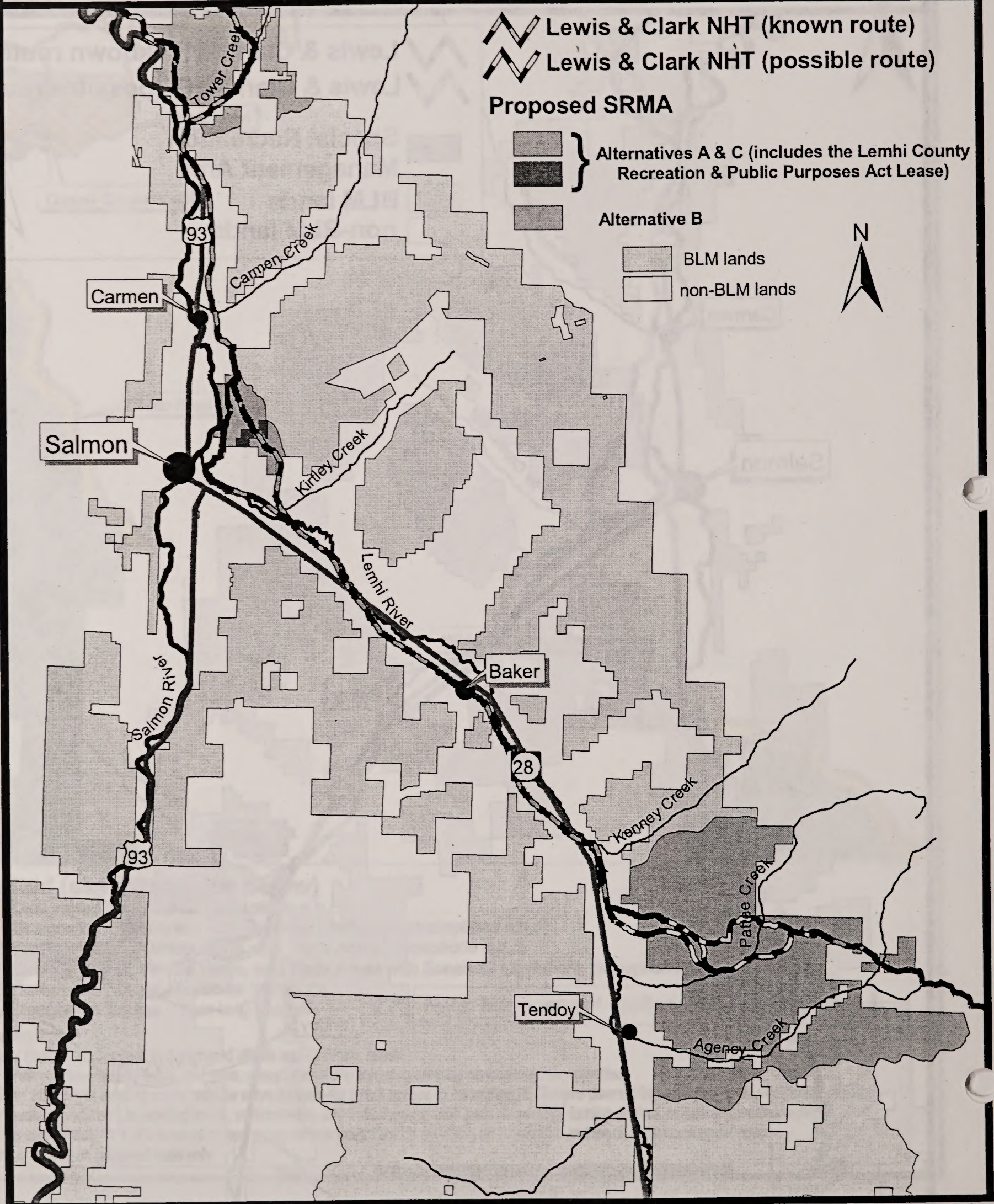
or to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails, some or all of the following off-road travel would be permitted:

- (a) within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products
- (b) immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle
- (c) if the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover
- (d) snowmobiles on groomed trails only

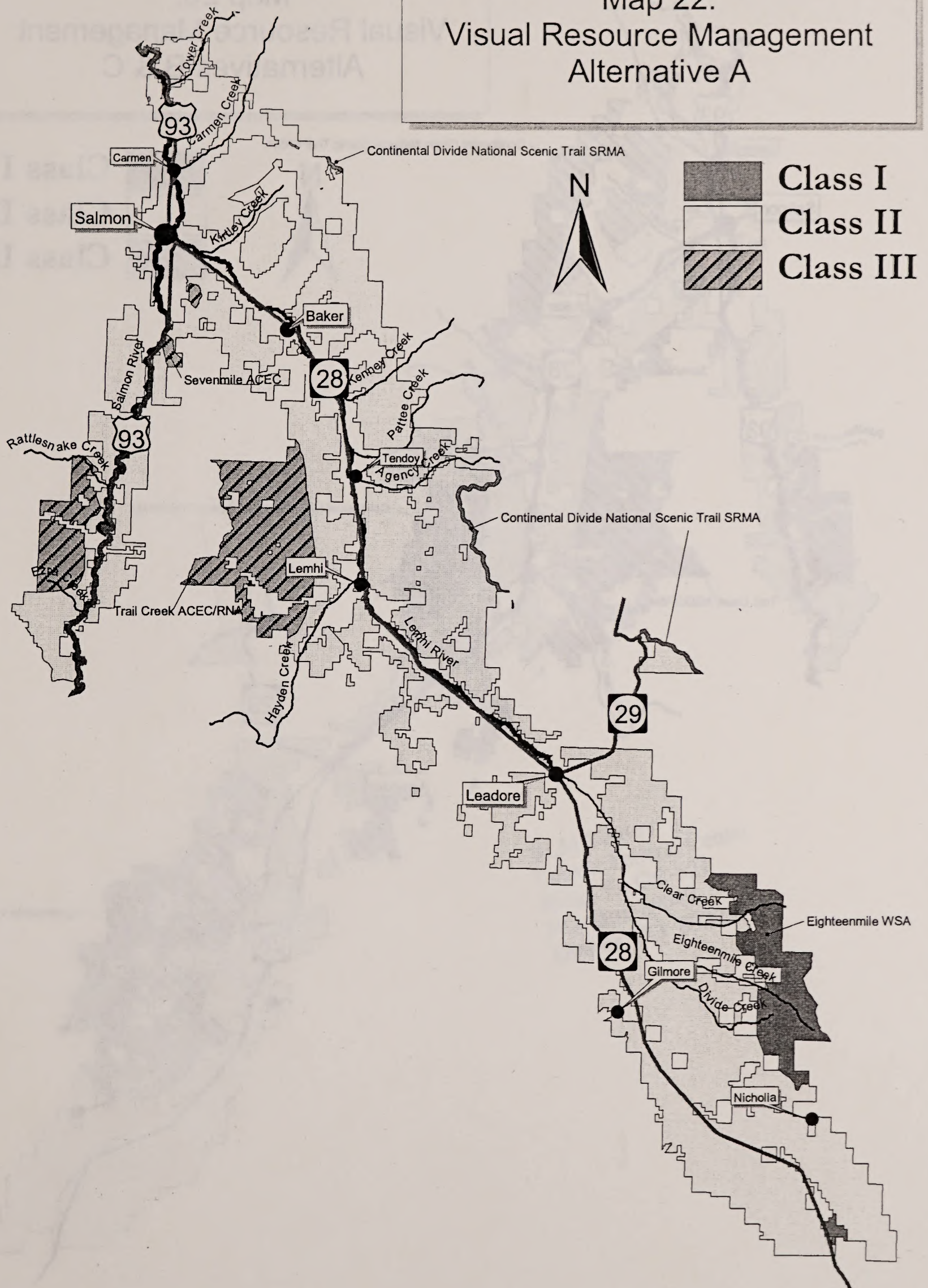
Map 20: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT) Special Recreation Management Area Existing Management



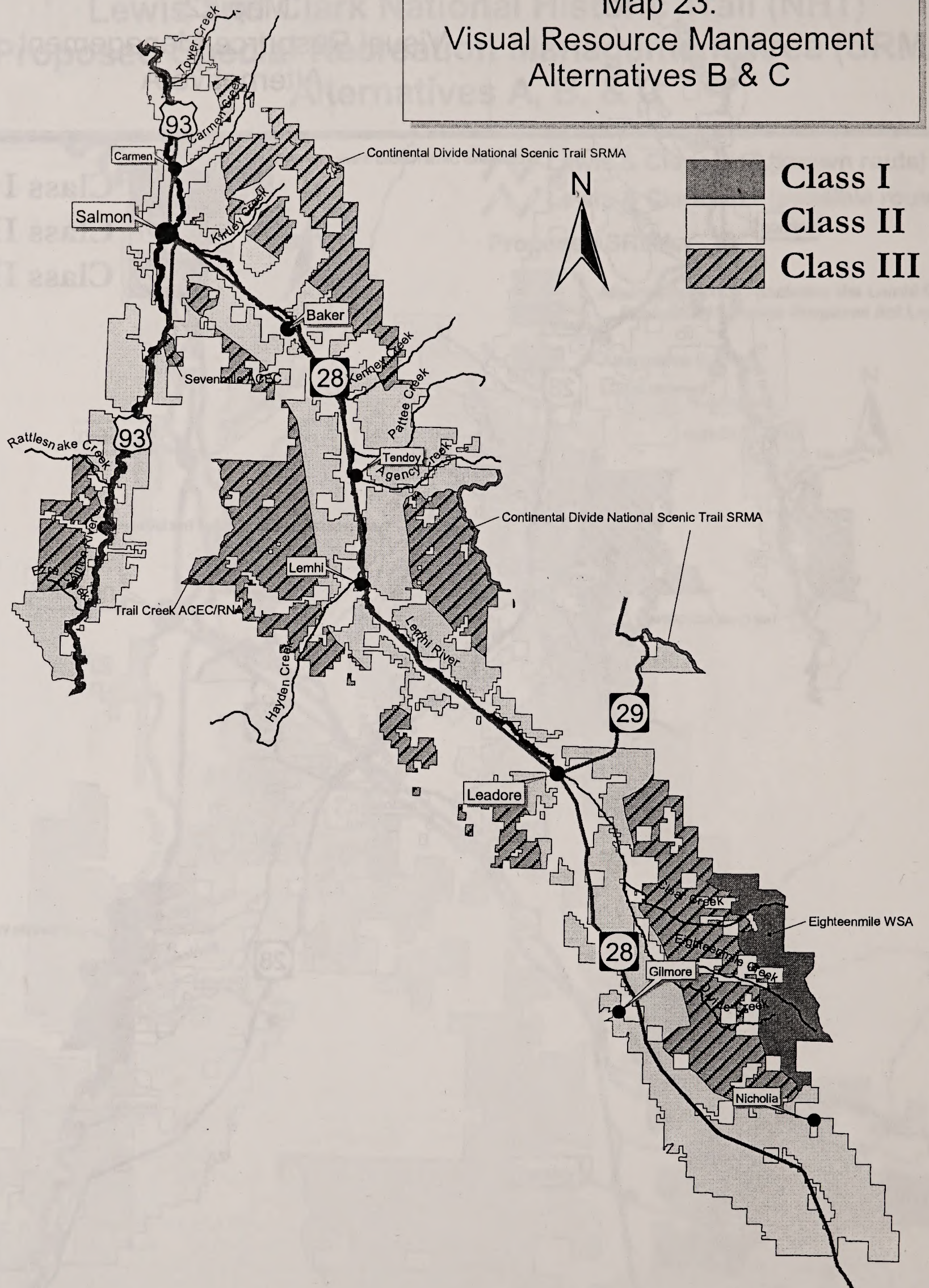
Map 21: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT) Proposed Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) Alternatives A, B, & C



Map 22: Visual Resource Management Alternative A



Map 23: Visual Resource Management Alternatives B & C



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